

# Inquiry to fix blame for £200m losses by the Crown Agents

A committee of inquiry into individual responsibility for losses of at least £200m by the Crown Agents is being set up by the Prime Minister. There will be an

## Emergency debate on Monday

By Malcolm Brown  
Mr Callaghan, the Prime Minister, has set up a committee of inquiry under Sir Carl Aarvold, former Recorder of London, to investigate the question of individual responsibility for the losses of the Crown Agents, now running at £220m.

This follows the publication yesterday of two reports on the Agents which chronicle saga of financial mismanagement, personal empire building, and failure by the Ministry for Overseas Development, the Treasury and the Bank of England to put a stop to the affair before the property market collapse of the early 1970s, brought about the disintegration of the Crown Agents' speculative financial dealings.

A three-hour emergency debate on the Fay report to be held in the Commons on Monday.

Sir Carl's report, which will be studied by, among others, the Director of Public Prosecutions, could lead to criminal and civil actions.

Charges of corruption are pending against Mr Sidney Finley, a financier whose companies became involved with the Agents, and had been laid against Mr Bernard Wheately, the Crown Agents' former sterling money market manager who, at the time of his death in July 1977, was awaiting trial.

Mr Silkin, the Attorney-General, disclosed yesterday that civil actions had been initiated against the estate of the late Mr Wheately, Mr Finley and a third man, claiming the return of monies.

The sum involved was "several for £1m", Mr Silkin said, adding that about £250m of this was in respect of Mr Wheately.

Despite vigorous protests from the Opposition, Mrs Judith Hart, the Minister for Overseas Development, defied her decision to hold the Aarvold inquiry in secret.

After making her statement on the affair to the House of Commons, Mrs Hart said there was no question of a cover-up.

The terms of reference of the Aarvold inquiry are: "in the light of the report of the Fay Committee to assess the

emergency debate in the Commons on Monday on the Fay report, which was published yesterday. This details the financial mismanagement up to the property market collapse early in the 1970s.

"Mr Challis would have us believe that he did not influence the course taken by the market managers, and said to us more than once that he had not ever ordered that a loan be granted."

"We do not believe him." The characteristics of the finance directorate under Mr Challis are described by the Fay report as having included unjustified risk-taking; a lack of regulation and control; and an aversion to taking advice; secretiveness; a low standard of commercial sense; and a haphazard choice of associates.

In the finance directorate the prevailing atmosphere of secrecy had meant that no one knew what Mr Challis could comprehend the state of affairs as a whole, and he at no time shared the complete picture with the chairman. With secrecy went a record dislocation to take advice unless forced to."

Sir Claude Hayes, the report says, inherited the own-account dealing situation. Sir Claude, who appeared as a "forbidding" man to his subordinates, should, however, have known what was happening.

... the responsibility for the way in which the own-account activities developed rests fairly and squarely on Mr Challis because he conducted them, and on Sir Claude Hayes because he knew or ought to have known what was going on.

The Fay report, commenting on Christmas gifts made by Mr William Stern, the property manager, to a number of instances of Crown Agents staff accepting favours which might be thought to place them under an obligation to a person with whom they had no deal in their official capacity.

"These gifts were in our view unfortunate." Sir Claude Hayes, in an interview on BBC television last night, said: "For the banking collapse which we suffered in 1974 I take the blame. There is no mistake about that."

But he added: "I was not the expert. I did not have the expertise. My responsibility was to see we had the right expertise. But I did not succeed in getting that."

Diplomatic sources said Saudi Arabia was leading a move by moderates to heal the Arab divisions opened by Mr Sadat's historic visit to Israel.

Mr Ghali declined direct comment on the reported Saudi moves, but said he believed "there is still a chance" that Syria and the PLO would attend the Cairo talks.

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firemen who have been called to an emergency meeting of the TUC's finance and general purposes committee. They will argue that pay guidelines are being imposed on the unions without the force of legislation.

That was the attitude, too,

yesterday of Mr Joseph Gormley, president of the National Union of Mineworkers.

As the miners began talks with the Government for a statutory policy instead of the present "most involuntary voluntary" system.

Mr Gormley voiced a desire to move away from annual clash towards a long-term wage agreement for the industry.

He did not develop the idea, and the coal board promised to consider carefully arguments put forward in support of the union's claim for £150 a week.

It is understood to be general guidance to all those in the public sector, and some employers' representatives fear that the new bargaining inhibitions will remove the last shred of flexibility in negotiations.

The Government's original guidance was that public service and nationalised industry employers should maintain a wage freeze until the pay review body had been reached.

The PLO had seen the plan as an attempt to deny its claim to be sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians.

Mr Gormley said: "The trouble is that they have failed to reach a wage freeze of 10 per cent which has become the minimum and not the maximum," he said. "By so doing they have allowed themselves no flexibility at all.

Indeed, they are seen to be administering the policy with less flexibility than if it were

strangulation.

Although plant varieties especially bred and selected to resist disease are at present the most effective means of controlling this group of fungi, remarkably little is known about why they are resistant.

Dr Cooper's group is studying the mechanisms in plants that shut down the water-conducting systems when attacked.

If that is found to be the method by which certain varieties of plant resist disease, it may help to develop new resistant varieties, even of the vulnerable and vanishing elm.

Bernard Levin's complete guide to chess, page 16

## Dead elms 'may have committed suicide'

By Philip Howard

The elms that have died in millions in a melancholy devastation of the characteristic leafy landscape of southern England, may not have been actively wiped out by Dutch elm disease after all.

A university research project has findings suggesting that the elms "commit suicide" in a futile attempt to resist the disease. If that proves to be so it might help to produce a variety of elm that resists the disease.

The Agricultural Research Council has just given £12,380 to the crop protection group of the School of Biological Sciences at Bath University to examine the minute fungi living in the soil that cause wilting and death in such crops as tomatoes, peas, beans, carrots and flax. The team is also studying the similar fungus that causes Dutch elm disease.

The conventional explanation until now has been that the fungus *Ceratostomella ulmi* is introduced into the elm by bark beetles feeding on its twigs. It invades its water-conducting system by producing spores that are rapidly swept upwards in the water that flows by osmosis up to the leaves. That causes, figuratively, a sort of botanical arteriosclerosis as spores block the plant's vascular system, cutting off the flow of water and nutrients.

The plant wilts. Its yield is reduced. And, if it is an elm, it dies, as can be seen in the skeletons and graveyards of elms throughout the south of England.

Dr Richard Cooper, of the Bath crop protection group, has discovered in his studies of the disease that the elm is not choked by an extensive growth of fungi in its cells. Even under the magnification of electron microscopes it is difficult to find any fungal spores in diseased elms. What seems to happen is that the fungi secrete poisons that stimulate the host plant automatically to seal off sticky gels and growths like

in less vulnerable plants, such as tomatoes and peas, that reaction traps the spores, and allows the plant's own built-in antibiotics to kill the parasites. In elms the reaction is more traumatic. Their vascular system is almost completely sealed. In effect, the trees commit suicide by self-strangulation.

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Conversely, obstacles to the Central Committee for Hospital Medical Services reaffirmed yesterday that a consultant should be allowed to spend his free time as he sees fit (our Health Services Correspondent writes). New contracts under negotiation should not depend on a commitment to refuse to do private practice. Negotiators were instructed to stand firm on the principle in any further meetings with Mr Dennis, Secretary of State for Social Services.

At an industrial correspond-

## Cairo talks delayed in Arab peace move

Cairo, Dec 1.—Egypt today

announced an American

announcement last night that the Cairo peace talks had been postponed to December 14, and retreated from plans to invite

to the peace conference.

To the finance directorate

the previous announcement of

secretary had been that no

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in negotiations between local

authority employers, who are

responsible for negotiations

with the striking firemen, and

workers who are stalling over

a deal worth 10.7 per cent on

the pay bill.

Both moves appeared to be

aimed at softening the total

rejection of the talks by most

other Arab states.

Mr Butros Ghali, the Egyptian acting Foreign minister, denied earlier reports from ministry officials that Cairo

invited Palestinians not

affiliated with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to participate in the talks

between Egypt and Israeli and Jordanian officials.

He was quoted by the semi-official Middle East News Agency as saying no decision had yet been reached.

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## Government seeks 14 days' notice of new public sector pay offers

By Paul Routledge and Christopher Thomas

The Government has told public sector employers to give notice of amended pay offers to forestall politically embarrassing breaches of its wage restraint guidelines.

That was the attitude, too,

yesterday of Mr Joseph Gormley, president of the National Union of Mineworkers.

As the miners began talks with the Government for a statutory policy instead of the present "most involuntary voluntary" system.

Mr Gormley voiced a desire to move away from annual clash towards a long-term wage agreement for the industry.

He did not develop the idea, and the coal board promised to consider carefully arguments put forward in support of the union's claim for £150 a week.

It is understood to be general guidance to all those in the public sector, and some employers' representatives fear that the new bargaining inhibitions will remove the last shred of flexibility in negotiations.

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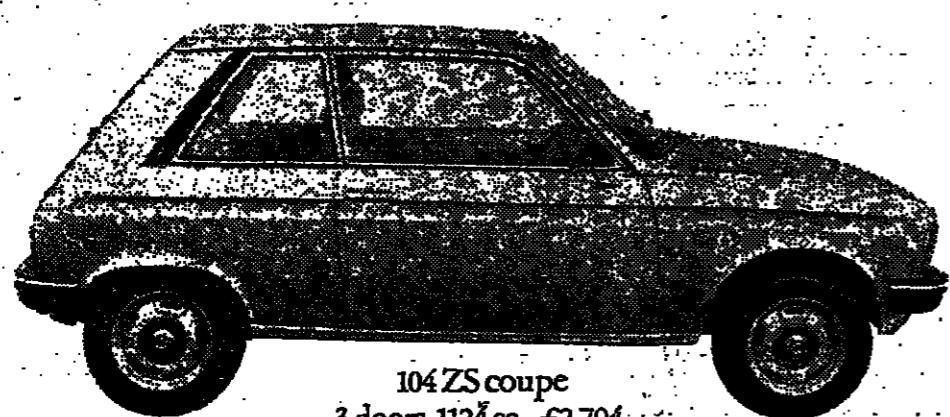
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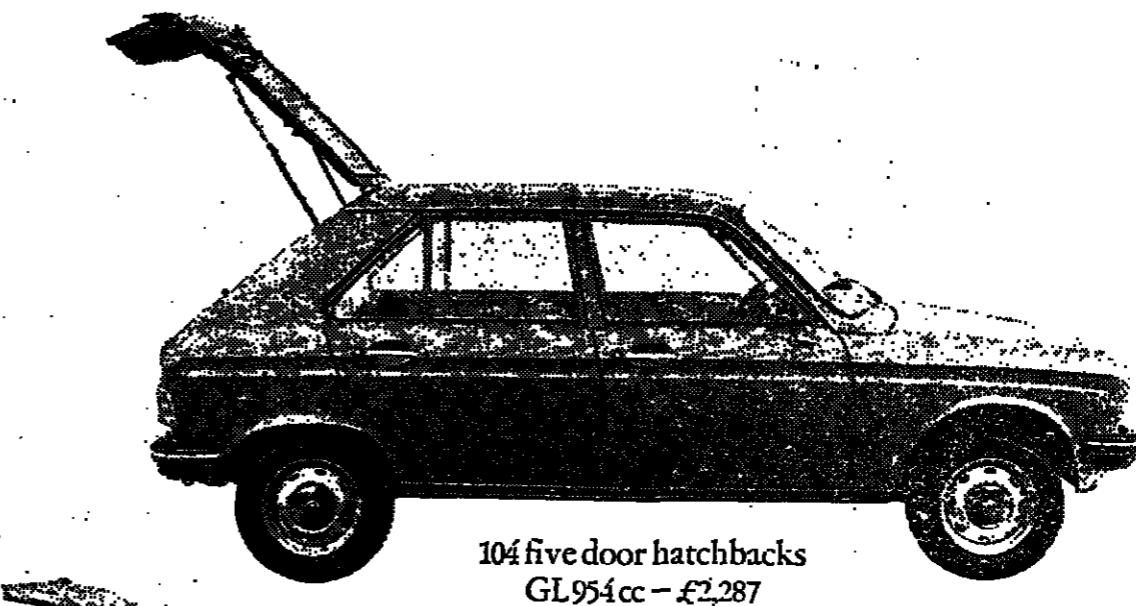
The Government's original guidance was that public service



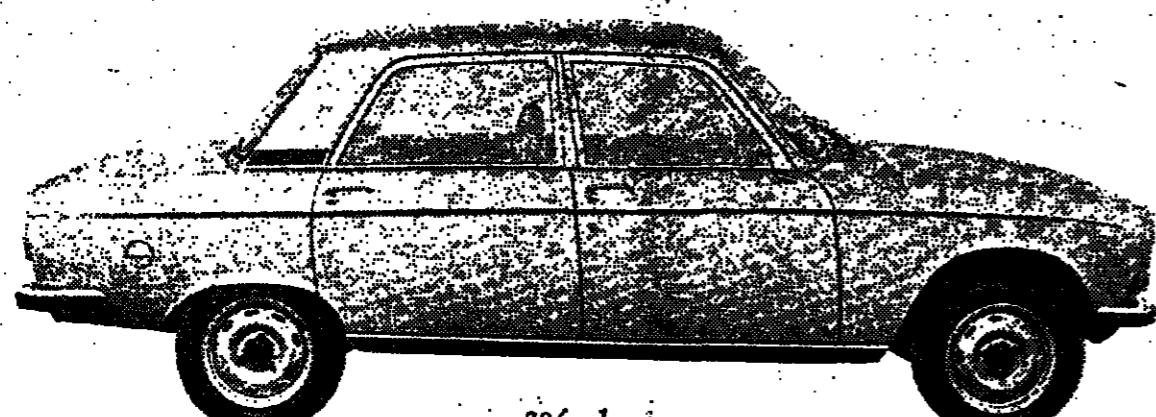
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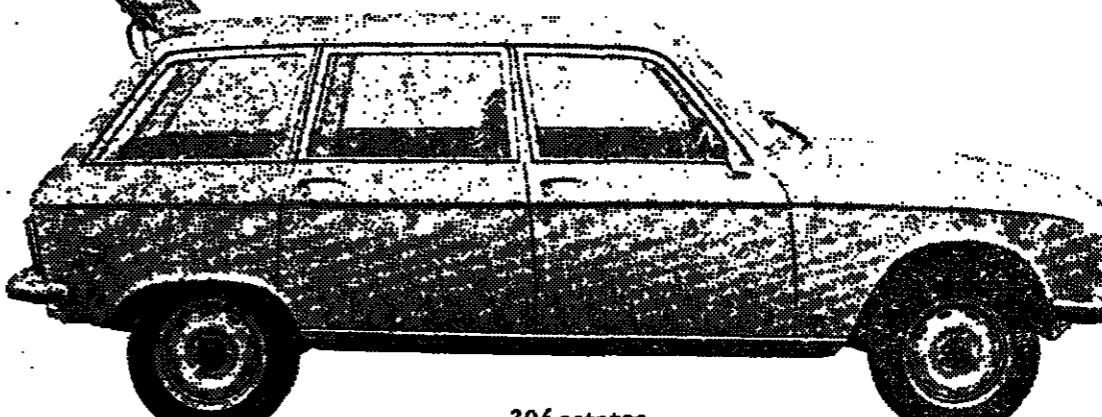
104 ZS coupe  
3 doors, 1124 cc - £2,704



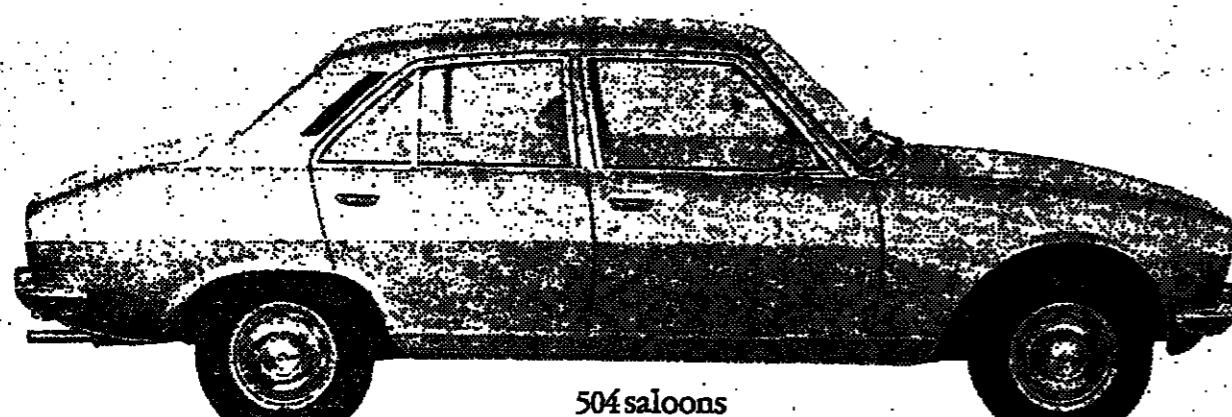
104 five door hatchbacks  
GL 954 cc - £2,287  
SL 1124 cc - £2,600



304 saloons  
GL 1290 cc - £2,810  
SLS 1290 cc - £3,151



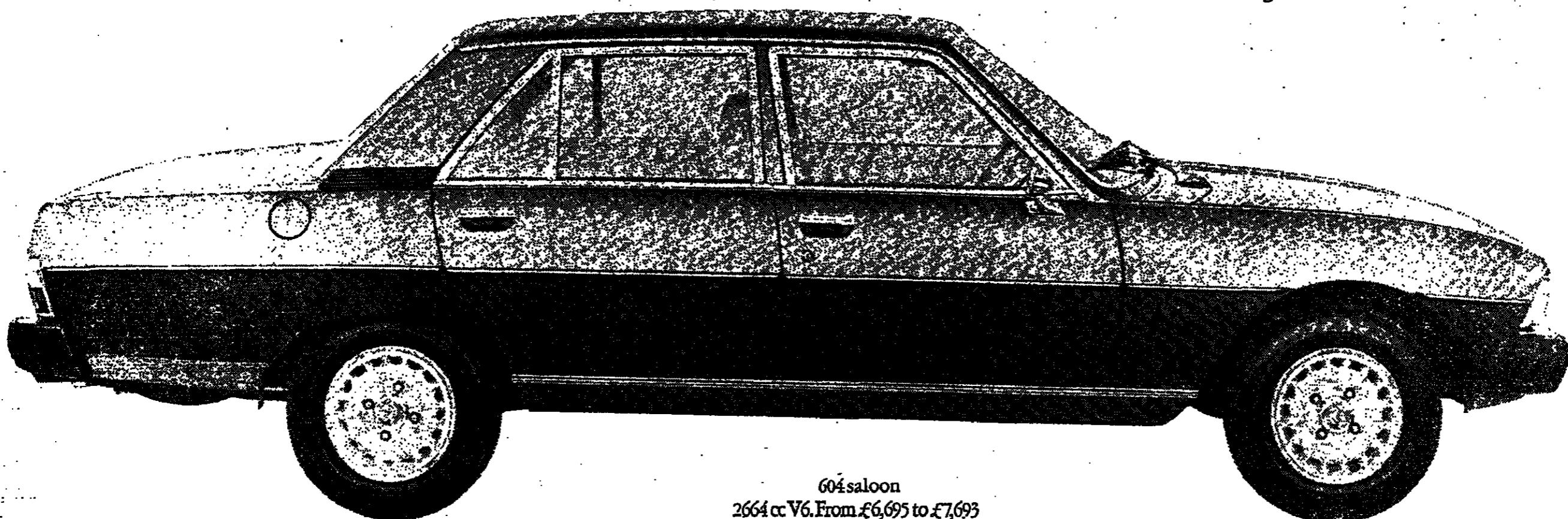
304 estates  
GL 1127 cc - £2,827  
SL 1290 cc - £3,051



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## HOME NEWS

# Basic payment of £1,000 a year proposed for councillors, with up to £3,000 more in some cases

By Christopher Warman  
Local Government Correspondent

A senior councillor with a large local authority could earn up to £4,000 a year under proposals published yesterday by a committee of inquiry set up by the Government.

The committee, chaired by Mr Derek Robinson, an Oxford don, recommends that every councillor on the 521 main local authorities in England, Wales and Scotland should receive a flat payment of £1,000 a year for his or her role as an elected member and to cover certain expenses.

In addition, senior members, such as main committee chairmen, would receive special responsibility payments of up to £3,000 a year.

The present system of reimbursing councillors by paying a maximum of £11 a day with attendance allowance should be abolished, the committee says. The new arrangements would include the reintroduction of a financial loss allowance.

Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, said yesterday that the Government would consider the proposals before discussing them with the local authority associations.

If implemented in full, the cost of the proposed system is estimated to be about £30m. The cost of the attendance allowances in 1975-76 was £9.4m, but the committee says they have been unchanged for four years, and that an averaging of the cost would give a figure of about £10m.

Mr Robinson said yesterday that the £30m cost, which would be the taxpayer, should be seen as fall on either the ratepayer or a proportion of the total cost of local government of about £15,000.

The committee, which produced a unanimous report, was convinced that a strong, healthy, viable structure of local government was essential to maintain democracy.

Under the proposed changes some councillors would receive more, and some less, but the total is outside the Government's 10 per cent guideline on pay. The committee recog-

nizes that because of economic constraints the Government might find it necessary to introduce the scheme initially with a lower basic payment, and a scale of special responsibility payments.

As a result of reorganization the number of councillors has been reduced from 46,000 to 26,000, and a survey by the committee shows that on average they spend 79 hours a month on council activities compared with 52 hours in 1964. The survey found that three-quarters of councillors are economically active, the same proportion as for the population as a whole.

Half of all councillors are employees, just over a fifth are self-employed, and almost a third are retired. About 7 per cent are housewives and only 2 per cent are unemployed or sick. The committee found that manual workers are still statistically underrepresented.

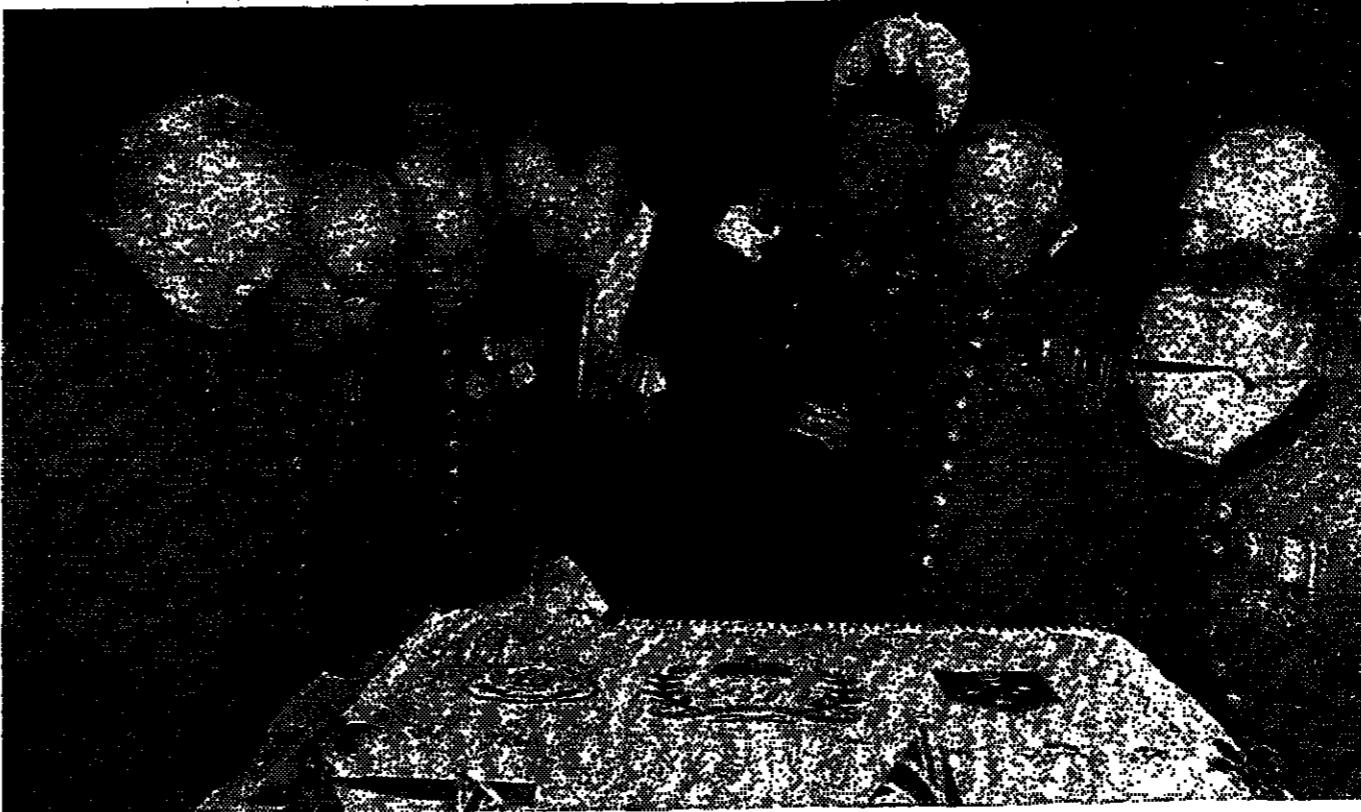
Mr Robinson said the committee had rejected the idea of full-time salaries for councillors. "That would present too great a threat to the long established voluntary principle that plays such an important part in British public life."

The report recommends the abolition of the present attendance allowance system because it has been widely misunderstood and carries the undesirable suggestion that it encourages malpractice.

The recommendation of £1,000 a year for all councillors is made "because we believe that the time has come when councillors should receive a payment in recognition of their role as elected representatives of the community". The sum is also designed to cover expenses such as telephones, postage and stationery, but not separate

allowing article, page 17

Population band	No of cllrs (special responsibility apply)	Cost of basic payments (£'000)	Cost of special responsibility payments (£'000)	Total cost (£'000)
Under 50,000	1,625 (194)	1,625	145	1,770
50-100,000	9,457 (790)	9,457	790	10,247
100-400,000	10,538 (1,021)	10,538	1,531	12,069
Over 400,000	4,904 (428)	4,904	1,284	6,188
	26,524 (2,433)	26,524	3,751	30,275



Mr John Rossiter, Agent-General in London for Victoria, with a Christmas cake he presented to Chelsea pensioners yesterday on behalf of ex-Servicemen in the state.

## Defence chief appeals over Services' pay

By Our Air Correspondent

The chiefs of staff have taken "all the steps that are open to them" to make wage difficulties for the three Services thoroughly known to those who make recommendations about their pay, Marshal of the RAF Sir Neil Cameron, Chief of the Defence Staff, said in London yesterday.

The annual cost of the proposal, assuming that all payments are taken up, is set out in the accompanying table.

*Remuneration of Councillors, vol I and II (Stationery Office: £140 and £2).*

Leading article, page 17

time he has often had to face extra duties"—an allusion to the Servicemen who are taking over the duties of the striking firemen, with whom their pay compares unfavourably.

Sir Neil said the chiefs of the defence staff were working "single-mindedly" to get military salaries back to a level with their civilian counterparts, as the Government had proposed.

Afleck Forces' salaries had in recent years been comparable with civilian rates for only one short period during 1975. It signifies that Sir Neil should make his appeal in a week when a report from the commanding officer of the RAF West Drayton made public the fact that many of his men "moonlight" in outside jobs to make up their pay.

Speaking at an Air League luncheon he said he was constantly struck by the quality of professionalism among all ranks. But successive defence reductions and the pay policy has placed great strain on the individual Serviceman.

"He has seen his living standards fall as prices have risen and as pay has been rigidly restrained. At the same

## Mental illness man must get job back

By Pat Healy

Surrey County Council has been ordered to re-engage a former employee, dismissed on the ground of mental illness, in a test case regarded as a victory by Mind, the mental health organisation. It believes the ruling by an industrial tribunal at Brighton, announced yesterday, means that employers cannot dismiss employees because of past history, but must prove that mental illness is affecting the ability of the individual to do the job.

The council, which has been ordered to re-engage Mr Paul Chandler aged 24, within two months, in a job at the same level and salary and to end his compensation for loss of work, declined to comment yesterday. All future action, including the possibility of an appeal, was said to be under consideration.

The tribunal ruled that Mr Chandler had been unfairly dismissed as a laboratory technician at Horley Comprehensive School because proper medical evidence had not been sought and there had been no consultation with him. The decision, which was unanimous, effectively means that employers must follow proper procedures when they intend to dismiss people on the ground of mental ill health, as they are obliged to do in other cases.

Because of his medical history Mr Chandler was initially hired for six months, subject to review. At first he was stated to be an excellent employee and the school and headmaster were satisfied with his work. In January last he was fined £58,000 of the fish with his boat, the Scottish registered Qu Vadis, in October during an 18-hour fishing trip.

The bench agreed with Mr Owen Thomas, QC, for the defence, that there was no case to answer because the prosecution had not proved that the fish were caught in a banned area. The defence was granted £810 costs.

Mr McAlinden, of Warren Point, co Down, Northern Ireland, who denied the offence, could have been fined up to £50,000.

Spanish skippers fined: Two Spanish trawler skippers who fished without licences inside British and European Community protection limits were each fined £10,000 and had their catch confiscated at Milford Haven Magistrates' Court, Dyfed, yesterday. Spain is not a member of the EEC.

Javier Ajuria Abotiz, aged 34, and Julian Ajuria Abotiz, aged 26, admitted they had taken a chance inside the limits when their ships, which were fishing as a pair, were detained by the fishery protection vessel Diamond on Wednesday.

They were ordered to pay £100 costs and £15 interpreter's fees and their ship were ordered to be detained until the penalties were paid.

Drink fines up: Magistrates at Chichester, Sussex, who in May began fining motorists for drink driving offences £1 for every millilitre of alcohol in the blood, have increased the scale by a tenth to meet inflation.

### Drink fines up

The residue, about £150,000 and bequeathed to Mr Willis, will be divided, leaving him only a fifth share. The other four-fifths would be held on trust for Mr Brown and his wife and four children in accordance with an earlier will made by Mr

## Taxpayers may have to foot IRA funeral bill

From Christopher Walker Belfast

Controversial legal moves are under way in Northern Ireland which, if successful, will mean that the British tax payer will have to pay for the military-style funeral given last year to Mrs Maire Drumm, former vice-president of Provisional Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Provisional IRA.

Mrs Drumm, a Belfast woman renowned for her fierce republican oratory, was murdered in October last year by gunmen posing as doctors as she lay in the ward of the Mater Hospital in Belfast. No one has been charged with the killing.

The funeral was one of the most elaborate held in the city, with a procession of more than two thousand mourners led by a traditional IRA colour party. Five men in black berets and dark glasses fired a shot over the tricolor-draped coffin before disappearing into the crowd.

Lawyers acting for Mrs Drumm's husband, James, an independent republican, are confident that the Government will have to meet the funeral expenses under the terms of the Criminal Injuries Persons Act (Northern Ireland), 1968.

The Northern Ireland Office has denied liability in response to a general compensation claim on behalf of Mr Drumm. But yesterday Mr Paschal O'Hare, a Belfast solicitor, said he would be launching a court case in the new year to recover the funeral expenses.

"I cannot understand why the Government has not already made an offer," he said. "Mrs Drumm was a member of a legitimate organisation when she was shot dead. It was clearly a criminal act."

Lawyers believe that the section of the Act that will play a crucial part in the legal argument when the case comes to court will be that which states: "Regard must be taken of all relevant circumstances, including any provocative or negligent behaviour of the victim."

## County advised to sell farms

Derbyshire County Council is being recommended by its policy subcommittee to sell its farmhouses, cottages and smallholdings.

The subcommittee believes they no longer act as a gateway to farming for young people, although the Ministry of Agriculture views the widespread disposal of county council smallholdings as damaging to the industry.

## More race advisers

Twelve new race relations employment advisers are to be appointed in the next six months, bringing the total to 26.

## Brother may seek annulment of accident verdict

The brother of a woman found dead in the cowshed of an isolated west Wales farmhouse said last night he would consider an appeal to the Divisional Court to have the verdict of accidental death annulled.

Mr John Roberts, the Carmarthen coroner, had earlier recorded a verdict of accidental death on Mrs Rita Moffatt.

During the hearing Mr Angelo van der Punte, Mrs Moffatt-Bailey's brother, walked out of the court with his family. He later complained that Dr Knight's evidence had been rejected by the coroner.

In evidence Dr Knight, reader in forensic pathology at Cardiff Hospital, said two deep parallel wounds at the

## Skipper is cleared over herring ban

Donald McAlinden, a trawler skipper, was cleared by Plymouth magistrates yesterday of breaking new herring ban aimed at conserving stocks.

He was alleged to have caught up £58,000 of the fish with his boat, the Scottish registered Qu Vadis, in October during an 18-hour fishing trip.

The bench agreed with Mr Owen Thomas, QC, for the defence, that there was no case to answer because the prosecution had not proved that the fish were caught in a banned area. The defence was granted £810 costs.

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## Couple give up £120,000 in will case

By Paul Routledge Labour Editor

The Transport and General Workers' Union yesterday urged the Government to exempt agreements on a shorter working week from the 12-month rule "and any other restraint" as part of a new campaign to cut unemployment.

The proposal was part of a seven-point programme unanimously adopted by the TGWU to deal with "our outstanding social evil and economic malaise". The union says there is frightening evidence that employers and civil servants have come to accept the appalling total of 1,500,000 out of work, and are adjusting to even worse figures.

Transport workers' leaders, who influence within the TUC is strong, are also seeking a joint standing commission on unemployment to be headed by the Prime Minister.

The TGWU executive said last night: "We have over 75,000 school-leavers under 16 years of age who have not had a job since leaving school. Thirty per cent of our unemployed are under 15. Civilised values and healthy social attitudes cannot live with this obscenity."

The working party of 13 members, chaired by Professor Bernard Crick, head of the department of politics and sociology at Birkbeck College, London, has just completed a draft report based on the findings of a three-year research project into political education, financed by a £20,000 grant from the Nuffield Foundation. A similar grant was given to fund a parallel research project at York University, under Professor Ian Lister. A report of his findings was published in The Times earlier this week.

The Crick report said if society wanted responsible citizens it would plainly have to tolerate some of the unpredictable inconveniences of action and participation. Schools

could and should help make participation informed and orderly.

Too often what political education already existed in schools was based on an arid constitutional and purely descriptive approach. That was often done out of fear of bias. But some bias was not only probable but, if we were mortal beings, also unavoidable.

Part of reaching was to make pupils aware of their own biases, the biases of others, and to alert them to the implications of particular political prejudices or perspectives.

However, the school might have a great effect on how biases were held, whether peacefully and tolerantly or violently and blindly, for example; and whether, if injustice was perceived, the child was equipped to and temperamentally likely to try to do something about it.

The working party recommended basic provision of political education in the common curriculum of all secondary schools. This did not necessarily mean a separate class on politics.

## Big devolution issues get past without debate

By Hugh Noves Parliamentary Correspondent Westminster

With only four days of the Scotland Bill committee completed, it is clear that devolution legislation will reach the House of Lords with many matters undecided. Mr Foot, Leader of the House, is threatening retribution if the Lords do their constitutional tasks too thoroughly and unduly delay the Bill.

It will not be easy for the Lords to do their duty by the Bill and still please Mr Foot if the pattern now developing continues through the 83 clauses and 17 schedules.

Perhaps more important than the clauses not reached have been the issues that could not be debated where a clause raised points for discussion.

This week, two important groups of Tory frontbench amendments on the executive functions of the assembly and the surveillance of assembly Bills were undebated while time was taken with backbench amendments to the same clauses.

Similarly, the size of the pro-

posed assembly, while the clause on the time of the election and term of office of assembly members went through without debate.

Another debate that never took place was planned for Tuesday night on Liberal proposals to give taxation powers to the Scottish assembly.

Clauses 6, procedure for fixing election dates, Clause 7, date of first meeting of assembly to be decided by Secretary of State, Clause 8, procedure for assembly, Clause 9, procedure for appointment of a presiding officer, Clause 10, persons not disqualified from assembly mainly on the cause of being peer or being ordained as a minister of religion, Clause 11, disqualification effect to be that elected to assembly is void, Clause 12, procedure for determining that persons should be disqualified, Clause 13, disqualification of members of assembly, Clause 14, resignation from assembly, Clause 15, defamatory statements, Clause 16, statements and documents published under section 10(1) prior to the privilege, Clause 17, corruption to be covered by Prevention of Corruption Act.

The working party of 13 members, chaired by Professor

## HOME NEWS

**MPs say hospital doctors' judgment should be subject to Ombudsman's inquiry**By John Roper  
Health Services Correspondent

Against strong arguments from the medical profession, a Commons select committee reviewing hospital patients' complaints has recommended that issues involving a doctor's clinical judgment should be referred to the Health Service Commissioner (the Ombudsman).

The British Medical Association said yesterday that the move would be detrimental to patients' treatment. The committee's report could not disprove that such a procedure would not lead to a rash of trivial complaints and produce an adverse defensive attitude among doctors.

Nevertheless, the profession is likely to look carefully at the proposals when considering new ad hoc inquiries by health authorities to provide a simple, straightforward system of complaint in every hospital. The committee said it expected the BMA and the royal colleges to be intimately concerned in nominating advisers to the commissioner.

There will be consultations with all interested organizations on the proposals. Between 7,000 and 8,000 hospital patients' complaints a year are wholly or partly concerned with a doctor's clinical judgment.

The select committee was asked to consider hospital complaint procedures and their possible reference to the Ombudsman after the medical profession opposed a proposal by the Davies Committee on Hospital Complaints set up investigating panels to consider matters of clinical judgment.

**Accelerated retirements drain police forces**

By Alan Hamilton

Police forces throughout Britain are rapidly losing experienced officers through accelerated retirement, a trend likely to continue at least until the end of next year.

The departure of many long-serving men of all ranks is disclosed in a review of the annual reports of chief constables carried out by the Christian Economic and Social Research Foundation, whose chairman is the Dean of Westminster, Dr Edward Carpenter.

The drain is a result of police officers being able to count war service as years of service towards a police pension.

By no means all officers who find themselves approaching pensionable age are in the senior ranks, so that the impact is directly on the uniformed branch and the patrol duties, the review says. It adds that the loss comes just when society has taken one of those lurches into violence and

anarchy that beset some generations.

The Chief Constable of Northumbria, quoted in the review, said there were 391 assaults on his officers last year and that the more likely he was to be assaulted. The Chief Constable of Bedfordshire said that last year he had difficulty in replacing natural wastage, far less build up his manpower; some of his officers were leaving after 25 years' service.

The Chief Constable of Derbyshire reported that probationary constables made up a fifth of his force and almost two fifths of its uniformed ground cover.

A survey of 31 police districts shows that last year 3,200 officers retired on pension and 2,769 resigned. The wastage accounted for nearly 7 per cent of manpower.

The reports estimate that between 1978 and 1979, 15 per cent of all policemen will seek retirement, two thirds from uniformed branches.

**Building pickets fined after £30,000 trial**

From Our Correspondent

Rhyl Three North Wales building pickets were convicted at Mold Crown Court on Wednesday for their part in an incident at Prestatyn on Good Friday during a dispute at Pontin's Holiday Village after an eight-day trial estimated to have cost £30,000, before Judge Hughes.

Frederick Parkinson, aged 39, of Sycamore Drive, Chester, said to have thrown the first two rocks that smashed the windscreen of a strike-breaking lorry, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment, suspended for two years, for criminal damage, and fined £75 for threatening behaviour, with £25 costs and £30 compensation.

George Barry Scragg, aged 36, of Llynnau Drive, Connah's Quay, said to be the pickets' leader, was fined £75 for threatening behaviour, with £75 costs, Michael Hewitt, aged 26, of Victoria Avenue, Prestatyn, was fined £50 for criminal damage, £75 for threatening behaviour, with £65 costs and £30 compensation.

Thomas Brian Williams, aged 38, of Llynn Elwy, St Asaph, and William Stevens, aged 50, of Afyr-Pentre, Halkyn, were acquitted of threatening behaviour.

Business diary, page 23

**Mentmore inquiry may lead to reforms, peer says**

By George Clark

"The Mentmore sale should never have taken place, and the Government and the Treasury must bear the blame," Lord Perth, a former Conservative minister and former chairman of the Reviewing Committee on Export of Works of Art, told the Commons Estimates Committee in a memorandum submitted on Wednesday.

He suggested that a committee should be appointed to make an independent inquiry into the whole affair, not with a view to apportioning blame for the past but to examine the respective roles of the Treasury, the Department of the Environment and the Department of Education and Science. He believed it could recommend a reorganization of government machinery for saving Britain's historic houses, big and small, and works of art in general.

In particular, they could recommend who should decide, and how, what it is to be accepted for the nation in lieu of death duties or other taxes, or saved by direct government grants or the use of the National Land Fund, he said.

"Today it is wrapped in mystery and the public has no idea where the power of decision lies or how best to bring influence to bear."

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## HOME NEWS

## Post Office chairman urges battle against declining standards

Sir William Barlow, chairman of the Post Office Corporation, yesterday urged resumption of Sunday letter service and a cheap postage rate for next Christmas.

At the end of his first month as head of the corporation, he called on Post Office staff to lead a battle against the general decline in standards and services.

Sir William said he was impressed with the experience, expertise and technical professionalism and loyalty of most employees. "I now want to see that harnesses to improve our service to customers. This is crucial," he said.

In reversing downward trends he would "not allow anyone to trade in terms of increasing prices unless all other avenues have been explored and exploited."

"Neither will I allow reductions in service without full regard to the damage this can do to customer relationships. I want the Post Office to consider again the kind of letter service which could be provided on Sunday... perhaps even a review of the whole question of weekend services".

He wanted codes of practice that were really helpful to customers. "I want to look in real terms about the possibility of a cheap postage rate for Christmas, 1978. I want

it on record that we are in parcels to stay."

Sir William told the staff: "Whether we like it or not, we are not as highly regarded as we should be. This is certainly highly unsatisfactory and something that we simply must change. Together I know we can do it, and one of the things I intend to do is to be far more open and frank with the public, our customers, our bread and butter. Our business is to give an excellent public service on which we must make a profit."

Lord Camyon, president of the Mail Users' Association, said yesterday that postal charges would rise next year.

### Teachers wary on accountability

By Diana Geddes

Teachers are wary of government moves to promote the "accountability" of schools by expanding the testing and assessment of pupils according to an editorial in *Secondary Education*, the journal of the National Union of Teachers, published today.

While supporting a growth in pupil assessment under teachers' control, it says assessment and accountability should be kept separate

## Acid gushes into river after fatal M1 crash

From Our Correspondent  
Northampton

The river Nene was polluted with hydrochloric acid yesterday after a fatal motorway crash involving a tanker. Two people were killed and seven others injured in the crash on the M1 near Watford Gap.

The 4,000 gallon tanker was involved in a multiple accident on the northbound carriageway, causing the acid to gush into a stream at the rate of 10 gallons a minute.

Part-time firemen tried to dilute the acid, but soon dead fish were seen in the stream and the Nene.

Anglian Water Authority experts bulk a dam and a lime filter to try to kill off traces of the acid, but could not stop the river pollution. Domestic water supplies were declared safe. Farmers were warned to keep livestock away from the water for at least a week.

Five policemen were treated in hospital for the after-effects of the fumes. The driver of the lorry that crashed into the tanker was in danger from the fumes while firemen worked for two hours to free him.



Hill memorial: Mrs Bette Hill, widow of Graham Hill, who was killed in an aircraft crash two years ago, receiving a cheque for £110,000 from Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, chairman of the Graham Hill Appeal Fund, at a dinner at Guildhall, London, last night. The money will pay for a rehabilitation centre for the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital at Stanmore.

## Move to end students' Jewish-Arab conflict

By Annabel Ferriman

Feelings are likely to run high this weekend when the Jewish-Arab conflict in the universities is discussed at the National Union of Students' conference in Blackpool, which opens today. Because of decisions by some students' unions to ban Jewish societies from use of union facilities the NUS is trying to change its constitution.

The executive is proposing an amendment that would give it the right to suspend students' unions that discriminate against members "on the grounds of race, religion or creed".

A two-thirds majority is needed for the amendment to be adopted, but the executive is fairly confident that it can be found. It is counting on the support of conservative delegates who are also expected to number about two hundred, and the Broad Left group, a Labour-communist alliance of about 250 delegates.

It is likely to be opposed by delegates from the Socialist Workers' Party and the Socialist Student Alliance, which

between them might muster 200 voices. On that showing the amendment would scrape through the 700-delegate conference.

An agreement designed to lessen campus conflict is announced today in the NUS newspaper *National Student*. The union has won declarations from the Union of Jewish Students and the General Union of Palestinian Students that debases around the issues raised in the Middle East conflict should take place within a free and open atmosphere.

"No limitations on the rights of Jewish or Palestinian students, whether they are religious, political or social groups, should be communicated," it says. Both the societies pledge themselves to work with the NUS.

But those promises alone are not enough, according to Miss Susan Skinner, the NUS president. "The Palestinian students have reached a decision nationally that they will not discriminate against Jewish societies. We respect their sincerity, but their

supporters might not respect their decision."

She said fears that the amendment might increase the power of the executive were unfounded because any decision to expel a students' union would always be taken to the national conference. Others thought it interfered with the autonomy of individual unions.

"We are not infringing their democratic rights," she said. "What we are saying is, if they make a decision we consider discriminatory we have the democratic right to say we do not want them as members".

The constitutional changes were unnecessary, according to Mr Mohamed Abu-Jamal, president of the General Union of Palestinian Students. Only two students' unions, those of the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, and the Polytechnic of North London, still had policies banning Jewish societies from union facilities.

Because of persuasion from

University had reversed its decision to deprive its Jewish society of students' union support, and that could be effected elsewhere if the NUS and the Palestinians got together, he said.

The Union of Jewish Students was pleased that the NUS wanted powers to suspend unions that discriminated. Mr Moshe Forman, its president, said yesterday that the ban on Jewish students' activities in Union premises set a dangerous precedent.

Although only two unions still had policies of restricting Jewish societies, eight had passed motions equating Zionism with racism. They were the polytechnics of Middlesex, Lancashire, Essex, and Central London, Warwick University, and the university colleges of Swansea, Bangor and Cardiff.

These motions, combined with the NUS policy of not allowing a platform to racist and fascist speakers, meant that those institutions could effectively refuse speaking rights to any Zionist speaker.

## MP's Bill to regulate house agents

By Our Consumer Affairs Correspondent

The Union of Jewish Students was pleased that the NUS wanted powers to suspend unions that discriminated. Mr Moshe Forman, its president, said yesterday that the ban on Jewish students' activities in Union premises set a dangerous precedent.

The Bill, whose second reading is due to be debated on February 3, will require estate agents to keep clients' deposits in separate accounts, join a bonding scheme to protect the deposits, and make public their charges before accepting instructions.

It would also empower the Director-General of Fair Trading to close the business of any estate agent guilty of malpractice.

The Federation of Master Builders has told the Government that if it wishes to encourage owner-occupation it must look urgently at the heavy costs involved in buying and selling property.

## £4m of television equipment unused because of unions

By Kenneth Gossing

At least £4m of new television equipment is lying idle because it is being "blacked" by unions, Mr Robin Scott, deputy managing director of BBC Television, complained yesterday.

Mr Scott, who was delivering the Shoreham Memorial Lecture to the Royal Television Society, said the equipment was either delivered or ordered for British television companies.

"I appreciate the natural anxieties felt by unions over the effect of new technology on training and individual reward," he said... but if new technology changes the nature of the job associated with it compared with what existed before, then it is the duty of the managers and personnel to

to give careful examination to the problem, in good time."

Unions must not cloud the issue by using the blacking of so-called new technology injuriously as a mere device to secure unauthorised advantage over pay.

Mr Scott said that the trouble had worsened in recent months. It was worse for the independent television companies than for the BBC; London Weekend Television, Grimsby and Anglia were particularly affected.

Anglia, for example, has a number of videotape recorders and light-weight cameras which cannot go into service." Old equipment that had become out-of-date had to be used in its place.

## Son cleared of manslaughter

Peter Jackson, aged 43, accused of killing his elderly mother after learning that she had been unfaithful with a man more than forty years ago, was cleared at Winchester Crown Court yesterday of manslaughter.

Mr Jackson, of Queens Grove, Purbeck, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment, suspended for 18 months, for assault, which he admitted.

John Arden and his wife Margarette D'Arcy, the playwrights, apologized in the High Court yesterday to a retired Royal Navy commander who complained that he was portrayed as an unscrupulous landowner in one of their plays.

Commander Richard Burgess, aged 76, an estate agent, of Broadbridge Mill, Bognor, Sussex, sued the two writers, both of Corruclla, Headfort, Co. Galway, for libel in *The Ballaghbeem Beguile*.

## Health chief is cleared

Mr Norman Darby, administrator of Somerset Area Health Authority, has been cleared of an allegation that he used the ambulance service for travelling 30 miles on a personal errand.

The authority was told by the Confederation of Health Service Employees, which said there had been a gross misuse of ambulance resources in the county. An inquiry team said yesterday that there could be no criticism of Mr Darby or the ambulance service.

Johnny Walker cleared of bottle ban

The makers of Johnny Walker whisky got an order in the Court of Session, Edinburgh, yesterday, stopping another injunction from sealing whisky in similar bottles.

The temporary order granted to John Walker and Sons Ltd, of St James's Street, London, stops D. R. Allan and Company, of Reform Square, Campbelltown, Strathclyde, selling, offering for sale or exporting whisky that is not Walker's in similar bottles.

## Brighton lottery suspended

Brighton's town lottery has been suspended after a complaint by an American company that the design of the tickets infringes copyright. The promoter, Seacresticks Ltd, said all sales would be stopped until the legal position was clear. The system used in the Brighton scheme was believed to be the first of its kind in Britain.

Footballer banned

Rey Henkin, aged 21, the Leyton United footballer, was banned from driving for a year and fined £120 by magistrates yesterday, after admitting a drink-driving charge.

## Modernism

Michael Long reviews a new collection of essays on modernism in *The Times Higher Education Supplement* today. Lord Todd, Drs Clive Cookson, why he still believes it was a mistake to expand the universities, and Professor Max Beloff argues that the University Grants Committee should be abolished.

## Detective jailed

Det Constable Peter Standing, aged 26, of Duxton, Northamptonshire, was jailed for six months by Northampton magistrates yesterday for stealing from fellow officers.

## WEST EUROPE

## Hospitals hit by power cuts as left-wing unions strike in protest against Barre austerity

From Ian Murray  
Paris, Dec 1

France's left-wing trade unions called their members out on general strike for the second time this year in protest against the austerity measures of the Barre Government. Both the main unions, the Communist CGT and the Socialist CFDT were involved, as was the milita and teaching unions, the PFT.

There were fewer strikers this time than during the last stoppage on May 24 when an estimated 10 million joined the protest. According to the employers' organisations, an average of only 10 per cent failed to report for work today in the private sector, and it was impossible to tell how many of those did not turn up because of the difficulties in getting to work.

There were a higher proportion of strikes in the public sector, which is much more unionised. About 80 per cent of teachers were on strike, although child minders were at work to look after the schoolchildren. The other main target of the strikers was the electricity supply, and there were many cuts throughout the day, including several affecting hospitals.

Police estimated that 20,000 took part. The men voted to stop work for 24 hours after their union leaders rejected terms for keeping the flag from January 1.

The French crew, who came out on strike yesterday, used cars to block the unloading ramp of the Viking Venture, owned by Townsend-Thoresen, when it arrived from Southampton.

The men voted to stop work for 24 hours after their union leaders rejected terms for keeping the flag from January 1.

The most successful part of the strikers' day, apart from the electricity cuts, was probably the demonstration in Paris. Demonstrators began assembling in the Place de la Nation and two hours later left in procession on the traditional march to the Palace de la République, two miles away straight up the Boulevard Voltaire. They marched 15 abreast, chanting and singing under their banners, and the whole parade went on until nearly 3 pm.

Police estimated the crowd was 35,000 strong, but the unions' estimate was that 200,000 took part.

Le Havre, Dec 1.—The crew of a French Channel ferry today barricaded passengers on board an incoming British boat for two hours in protest against a plan by Normandy Ferries to dismiss 29 of them or operate the ship Leopard under the British flag from January 1.

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Normandy Ferries decided initially to transfer the Leopard to the British flag because the fall in the pound had led to an increase in its operating costs as a French boat. In face of union protests the company agreed that ship could remain French provided the unions accepted a reduction in the size of the crew.—Agence France Presse.

## Talks start on closing EEC-Japan trade gap

From Michael Hornsby  
Brussels, Dec 1

Japan and the EEC opened two days of trade talks here today with the perennial problem of the growing Japanese surplus on trade with the community at the centre of the

The Bill, whose second reading is due to be debated on February 3, will require estate agents to keep clients' deposits in separate accounts, join a bonding scheme to protect the deposits, and make public their charges before accepting instructions.

It would also empower the Director-General of Fair Trading to close the business of any estate agent guilty of malpractice.

The Federation of Master Builders has told the Government that if it wishes to encourage owner-occupation it must look urgently at the heavy costs involved in buying and selling property.



Vatican handshake between the Pope and Mr Gierek.

## Pope offers support to Poland

From Peter Nichols  
Rome, Dec 1

The Pope had an unexpected protracted audience today with Mr Edward Gierek, the Polish leader, during which he said that the Roman Catholic Church was ready to make its contribution to the progress of Poland.

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The Pope had an unexpected protracted audience today with Mr

## OVERSEAS

## Two leaders close Kappler affair

Rome, Dec 1.—Chancellor Schmidt of West Germany and Signor Andreotti, the Italian Prime Minister, today reassured each other that the friendship between their two nations was as solid as ever.

The two leaders met in the north Italian town of Varesego Sul Milazzo as part of regular twice-weekly consultations.

The meeting was originally scheduled for August but was postponed at the request of Signor Andreotti amid the political crisis in Italy over the escape to West Germany of Herr Herbert Kappler, the Nazi war criminal.

Herr Klaus Boellning, the West German Government spokesman, said the two leaders conducted an analysis of West German-Italian relations, East-West disarmament talks and international efforts to fight terrorism.

In an indirect allusion to the Kappler affair, Herr Boellning said the two leaders also decided to "close the book on other issues" that had strained mutual relations.

They agreed that the two nations should step up their countermeasures against terrorism and that their interior ministers should meet soon to coordinate their efforts.

Bomb attack: The home of a Communist member of Parliament was attacked in Trieste by petrol bombers today, the latest incident in a wave of political violence that has left two people dead.

The deputy, Signor Antonio Cuffaro, was not at home when the bombs were thrown, but his father, who has an upstairs flat, was rescued by firemen.

The violence was touched off by the killing of a young communist by rightists on Monday in Barletta, the port in south-east Italy.

In Palermo, Sicily, where workers staged a 30-minute strike in protest against the killing, a prison guard was shot dead outside his home by masked gunmen. Police said they believed it was a political attack.—Reuters

## Thatcher visit to Nato HQ

Brussels, Dec 1.—Mrs Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition, today began a three-day visit to Brussels with discussions at Nato headquarters.

Nato sources said Mrs Thatcher was briefed on the military situation in Europe by General Hermans Zeiner Gundersen, chairman of Nato's Military Committee. She also discussed East-West relations with Dr Joseph Luns, Secretary-General of Nato.

Later Mrs Thatcher visited supreme Allied Headquarters, near Mons for talks with General Alexander Haig, Nato's European commander. She met his deputy, General Sir Harry Hahn, and other members of the British delegation before returning to Brussels, where she will meet EEC officials tomorrow.—Reuters

## S Africans held in Swiss cheques case

From Our Correspondent Genova, Dec 1.

Two South African businessmen are under arrest, one in Zurich and the other in Geneva, in connexion with the theft last month of a large quantity of blank travellers cheques in Johannesburg.

They are Richard Mitchell, until recently a leading figure in the South African Chambers of Commerce, and Bernard Morris, both in their late 20s.

Mr Mitchell aroused bank managers' suspicions in Zurich by seeking to change abnormally large amounts of travellers cheques in \$100 and \$50 denominations into Swiss francs. Mr Morris was doing the same thing in Geneva when apprehended.

## Bonn learns how Britain copes with terrorists

Anglo-German cooperation in dealing with terrorist activities has been further extended by a visit to London by Dr Hans de With, the West German Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Justice.

Dr de With was particularly interested in British experience on legal matters, such as the procedure of Queen's evidence, and the code of conduct applied by the legal profession in discharging its responsibilities to the public. He also discussed British practice in cases of artificial feeding of prisoners on hunger strike.

The West German Justice Ministry is anxious to pursue a "middle way" in bringing its legislation up to date for handling terrorist offences. Dr de With said yesterday.

## German security man charged

From Our Correspondent Bonn, Dec 1.

Herr Karl Dittmeyer, of the West German security service was arrested today and accused of giving the press evidence that his service had been illegally nipping the home of a German nuclear scientist. He was charged with "sabotage against the constitution".

## Rhodesia settlement talks to go ahead in Salisbury without Bishop Muzorewa taking part

From Our Correspondent Salisbury, Dec 1.

Constitutional talks between the Rhodesian Government and the internal black nationalist group will begin here tomorrow without Bishop Abel Muzorewa and his delegation from the United African National Council.

The bishop has gone into a week's mourning in anger over the killing last week of more than 1,200 guerrillas by Rhodesian security forces in raids on the Chimoio and Tembo camps in Mozambique.

The talks will proceed because Mr Smith, the Prime Minister, says there is an urgent need to make progress towards peace in Rhodesia. A Government spokesman said today there could be no further delay.

The other two African nationalist organisations, the Zimbabwe United People's Organization and the Shona wing of the ANC, indicated they would be sending representatives if the organisations with the biggest black following, the UANC, was not represented at the outset, this was unfortunate.

"We could go on for ever with one delay after another, but not this time," the spokesman said. "The talks will start on Friday as announced by the Prime Minister."

The initial meeting will deal with procedures and is not expected to last for more than an hour tomorrow afternoon at a place yet to be announced. The broad principles of the negotiations are expected to be outlined, an agenda drawn up and work then allocated to committees to handle details.

The Government has been preparing for such a conference for some months with much groundwork on constitutional issues being done by an experienced team headed by Mr George Smith, the Government's Chief legal draftsman.

Mr Smith has already conceded the principle of majority rule based on adult suffrage, provided the other side accepted the need for safeguards for minority groups, which all three factions have accepted. The Sithole delegation will be headed by Dr Elliott Gobat, its vice-president, as the Rev Nshingwana Sithole is still in the United States.

Senator Chief Chirau will head the Zimpo delegation. Mr David Makone, publicity secretary of the UANC, said today that Mr Smith's callous disregard for his organization's week of mourning would prejudice the successful outcome of the talks.

If Mr Smith was under the illusion that he was going to use the UANC to manoeuvre a settlement for his purpose, he should think again. No settlement was possible unless it was endorsed by the UANC.

In an interview with the Rhodesian Herald, published today, Mr Smith said that more than anything else if the world wanted peace, peace had to come to Rhodesia. With goodwill and the cooperation of those who felt the same way, there was a real chance of success.

It would not be an easy process and dramatic results could not be expected in the early stages, he said. Asked, in the light of yesterday's moves, what the objective was of the recent raids into Mozambique, he said the urgent need for tanks did not preclude Rhodesia taking its stand against attempts by the Patriotic Front to overthrow the colonial state.

The raids had dealt a staggering blow and were essential to stop heavy attacks into the country which had been planned as usual against the main innocent black civilians, including women and children.

The Patriotic Front had dissociated itself completely from efforts towards peace within Rhodesia.

The British and American contribution toward peace so far has been negligible. All we have had is talk and talk. At least we in Rhodesia are getting to grips with the problem.

Maputo, Dec 1.—Two Belgian citizens have been captured by the Mozambique Army after they were shot down in Tete province, the Defence Ministry said.

The election was an unmitigated disaster for the ultra-right-wing Herstigte Nasionale Party. Far from making inroads into the NP's conservative Afrikaner power base, the party was humiliated by massive NP victories and all but two of its candidates lost their deposits.

As expected, the NP won over large numbers of English-speaking voters particularly in lower and middle income areas.

These voters had previously supported the UP.

Effect on the blacks, page 16

Leading article, page 17

## Tate & Lyle challenge ATV on S Africa film

By Kenneth Gosling

Tate and Lyle, the sugar refiners, are challenging sequences in a film to be shown by Independent Television, the independent television company, as part of a series about life and conditions in South Africa.

At a press conference last night, the company produced affidavits which, it said, proved that people questioned on the company's estate in Natal had given pre-arranged answers.

Mr Kit Hobley, public relations officer to Tate and Lyle, said that the company had spent four months checking the facts. "We would like an apology from TV", he added, "and their agreement to withdraw any sequences about us".

The four documentary films were commissioned by ATP from Mr Anthony Thomas. The

film crew returned from South Africa in September. The third film in the series, containing the sequences which Tate and Lyle say are damaging to the company, is to be shown on Wednesday week.

ATV agreed last month in correspondence with Tate and Lyle to make certain cuts involving people filmed and interviewed at Illovo, who were not resident here.

But Tate and Lyle say that their affidavits show discrepancies in other interviews, which they were shown in the form of "rushes" (unedited film) early last month.

They therefore want all the sequences removed. ATP have said, however, that it is not possible to give the categorical undertaking sought by Tate and Lyle.

**Swissair first**

Hongkong, Dec 1.—A Swissair DC10 jet, with a full load of 237 tourists, left Hongkong today for the first commercial chartered flight to China since 1949.

حکایت از این

## Sudden Sadat visit to Israel upset Jordan monarch's preparations

## Admiration and annoyance by King Husain

From Edward Mortimer Amman, Dec 1

King Hussein of Jordan today expressed great admiration for Egypt and for President Sadat, but also showed annoyance that Mr Sadat had upset the delicate preparations for the Geneva conference by suddenly announcing his visit to Israel without consulting or informing other Arab leaders.

He himself, he said, would not go to Jerusalem in any foreseeable circumstances.

He repeated that Jordan would not attend any pre-Geneva conference whether in Cairo or New York, unless all the other parties attended, but said he would not take part in any campaign against Mr Sadat either.

Referring to condemnation of the raids by Dr Owen, the British Foreign Secretary, and the United States Government, Mr Smith said it was the continued support by these governments of the Patriotic Front which prolonged the war and militated against peace efforts.

There was a sharp contrast between the militant proposals put by Lord Carver which have been roundly condemned not only here but in Britain and America", he said.

"The responsibility for the delay in achieving peace cannot be laid at our door. We have come to expect them to condemn anything my Government does to defend our country, but they would never dream of criticising Rhodesia for failing to do the same," he said.

"The British and American contribution toward peace so far has been negligible. All we have had is talk and talk. At least we in Rhodesia are getting to grips with the problem.

Maputo, Dec 1.—Two Belgian citizens have been captured by the Mozambique Army after they were shot down in Tete province, the Defence Ministry said.

A statement said the aircraft belonged to the Zaire-based company African Lux and that the aircraft were on their way from Salisbury to Lubumbashi in Zaire with a contingent of meat which had been sent by the military.

The aircraft had violated Mozambique airspace four times last month. — Agence France-Presse.

ing the Arab case there "in a is some setback in what has occurred". It should be "pos-

sible for Arab leaders at least to inform each other about actions, which they consider to be in the best interest of the Arab cause." In this case, Mr Sadat's action had come as a total surprise.

On the Cairo conference and on Dr Waldheim's proposals for a New York conference, King Husain explained there was no point in Jordan attending a meeting which was not attended by "other parties more directly involved than us", i.e. Syria and the Palestinians.

He also reaffirmed his support for the Rabat Arab summit in 1974 recognizing the PLO as sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, but when asked whether in the event of the PLO refusing to attend the Geneva conference Palestinian interests could be represented by anyone else, he replied: "I believe it is up to the Palestinians to determine what is the best course they should follow." He certainly hoped

the Palestinians would be adequately represented.

The king emphasized repeatedly that President Sadat had gone to Jerusalem entirely on his own responsibility, and added that he could not see "any circumstances under which I could make such a visit".

Mr Sadat had "gone as far as any of us can". He believed that "following the visit, no one in the world can say that the Arabs are not prepared to go to the limit in search of a just and lasting peace".

But, he added, the basis for such a peace was very clear to the Israelis already. He had said for a long time that the decision to make peace was now up to the Israelis, and "up to now a haven't seen any encouraging signs".

He had very serious doubts about the Israeli attitude on the West Bank and Jerusalem, he said, pointing to Mr Begin's statements both before and after President Sadat's visit, and to the announcement of new Israeli settlements on the West Bank.

poned until tomorrow morning because the South Yemen delegation did not arrive in time.

The Iraqis were quickly followed by Mr Arafat himself who brought a strong PLO delegation including Mr Abu Iyad, who is now the military commander of Fatah.

The arrival of the Iraqi delegation soon afterwards showed, however, that Mr Yassir Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, had been only partially successful in persuading Baghdad to support the summit. President Bourguiba of Tunisia did not come, but sent a delegation of the Revolutionary Command Council, led by Mr Isha Yassin Ramadani, as his representative, and including Mr Sadoun Hammadi, the Foreign Minister.

The conference was post-

## National Party gains many English-speaking voters

Continued from page 1

a sectional party of English-speakers in Natal.

The tiny SAP has reason to feel reasonably satisfied as it won three of the seven seats it contested. However its leader, Mr Myburgh Streicher, was ousted by the PFP.

The election was an unmitigated disaster for the ultra-right-wing Herstigte Nasionale Party. Far from making inroads into the NP's conservative Afrikaner power base, the party was humiliated by massive NP victories and all but two of its candidates lost their deposits.

A statement said the aircraft belonged to the Zaire-based company African Lux and that the aircraft were on their way from Salisbury to Lubumbashi in Zaire with a contingent of meat which had been sent by the military.

The aircraft had violated Mozambique airspace four times last month. — Agence France-Presse.

Note: The South Africa Party was formed at the beginning of 1977 by six MP's who broke away from the United Party. The New Republic Party was formed in September 1977 after the dissolution of the UP. The Progressive Federal Party was formed at the same time, being an amalgamation of the former Progressive and Reform Parties together with six members of the UP.

Effect on the blacks, page 16

Leading article, page 17

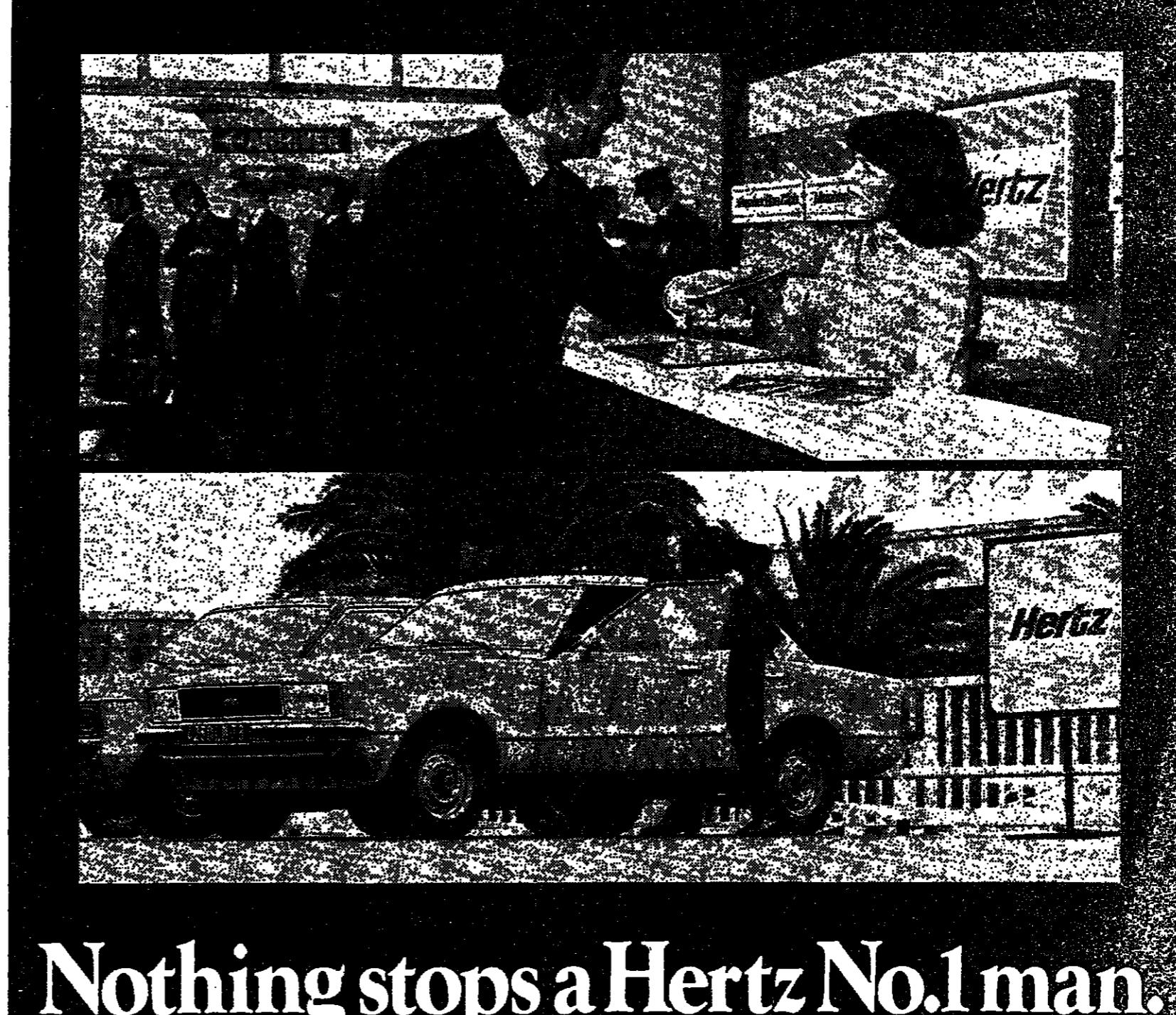
## Rejectionist Arab summit postponed until today

From David Watts Tripoli, Dec 1

The summit meeting in Tripoli of Arab rejectionist leaders began to take on substance this afternoon with the arrival of President Boumediene of Algeria and President Assaf of Syria.

The arrival of the Iraqi delegation soon afterwards showed, however, that Mr Yassir Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, had been only partially successful in persuading Baghdad to support the summit. President Bourguiba of Tunisia did not come, but sent a delegation of the Revolutionary Command Council, led by Mr Isha Yassin Ramadani, as his representative, and including Mr Sadoun Hammadi, the Foreign Minister.

Bus loads of workers moved into Tripoli's main square to hail the summit. As darkness fell carefully rehearsed crowds chanted slogans



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## OVERSEAS

## Another boat arrives in Australia laden with Vietnam refugees

Darwin, Dec. 1.—Another boatload of refugees arrived in Darwin tonight, adding to the numbers of Vietnamese reaching Australia in the past two weeks.

The wooden-hulled vessel, *Kien Giang*, escorted by an Australian naval patrol boat, carried 75 men, women and children. It brought to \$31 the total of refugees who have succeeded in reaching here since the middle of November after hazardous ocean voyages from South-East Asia.

Since the fall of Saigon to communist forces two-and-a-half years ago, 989 refugees in 27 vessels have reached Australia's rugged and sparsely populated northern coastline.

The latest arrivals sailed into port quietly, in contrast to the glare of controversy surrounding the docking two days ago of the Vietnamese passenger trawler *Song Be 12*, which was seized by refugees almost three weeks ago after its three military guards were overpowered and held captive.

Mr. Malcolm Fraser, the Prime Minister, campaigning in Perth for the general election on December 10, said Australians who believed a home should not be offered to refugees were taking "a pretty harsh view".

For the first time in the election campaign, Mr. Fraser's rival, Mr. Gough Whitlam, the Labor leader, agreed with a Government in its decision to allow the *Song Be 12*'s refugees to remain in the country. He told a press conference in Hobart, capital of Tasmania, he believed Mr. Andrew Peacock, the Foreign Minister, had acted properly in rejecting Hanoi's demand for their return.

He said, however, the Government should act with greater urgency to consult all the members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines and Indonesia, on the plight of the refugees.

"The situation concerns not only Australia," he said. "There are quite a lot of refugees in the Philippines and Malaysia and already a Vietnamese aircraft has been hijacked to Singapore."

The Australian immigration department has sent a team to screen some 3,000 Vietnamese refugees in Malaysia in an attempt to prevent them trying to get to Australia by boat. The department said in Singapore every refugee selected as an immigrant would be flown to Australia. No decision had been taken on how many would be chosen.

The team would impress on the refugees the hazards of leaving on their own by boat for Australia during monsoon weather.

In selecting refugees to go to Australia, the department would take into consideration whether they had relatives already there, whether they could speak English and their record on how many would be chosen.

whether they would be able to find work in Australia.

Those accepted would be in addition to the 2,000 Indo-Chinese refugees the Australian Government had already said will take from refugee camps in Thailand.

In Darwin an immigration official said the captain of the *Song Be 12* dragged the three guards with barbiturates before taking over the ship. He had planned the escape for many months with his three senior officers.

On the night of November 7, as the ship was anchored at the mouth of the Saigon river, he called the guards into his cabin for a drink. The drinks were laced with barbiturates.

After the guards were locked away, sampans carrying the refugees came alongside and the trawler set out for Australia. The captain's wife and three children were among the refugees who boarded the boat.

Douglas Atton writes from Melbourne: Mr. Peacock told Mr. Phan Ke-Dinh, the Vietnamese Chargé d'Affaires, that Australia would not send back to Vietnam the refugees who arrived in the *Song Be 12*.

Mr. Peacock received the envoy in Sydney to discuss the future of the vessel and the refugees. Mr. Dinh said his Government regarded the refugees as pirates and wanted them back with the vessel.

Mr. Peacock said after the meeting: "The Australian Government maintains it sole the vessel was not 'seized' within the meaning of the word 'piracy', because the vessel was taken within the territorial waters of Vietnam."

So far as Australia was concerned, some of the people on the boat were genuine refugees and on humanitarian grounds they would be allowed to stay in Australia. Those who wished to return to Vietnam would be returned together with the vessel if its ownership could be clarified.

Manila, Dec. 1.—Vietnam has seized the Philippines to return eight Vietnamese accused of seizing a Vietnamese cargo vessel in June, the Foreign Affairs Department said today.

The seized vessel had been kept secret with both sides apparently anxious not to upset the delicate balance of their relations, according to the Foreign Ministry.

Diplomatic sources said the vessel, with about 300 people on board and about 600 tons of cement, sailed to the northwest coastal town of Olongapo, near the United States Seventh Fleet repair base at Subic Bay.

All those on board, except for the eight suspected of taking part in seizing the vessel, returned to Vietnam. —Reuter.



The coach in which the emperor will ride to his stadium coronation.

## Emperor Bokassa, like Napoleon, prepares to crown himself

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, Dec. 1

Something of the pomp and pageantry of France's First Empire will be resurrected in the incongruous setting of the tropics when Bokassa I, self-styled Emperor of Central Africa since December 4, 1976, is crowned next Sunday in his capital, Bangui.

The new emperor, Bedel Bokassa, a former captain in the French Army, served with distinction at the Liberation and in Indo-China.

He has been ruler of the country for a decade. Life Presidents since 1972, field marshals two years later, holder of half a dozen ministerial portfolios and leader of the Mesan, the one political party.

For the past year, details of the enormous, costly and fantastically elaborate preparations for this bicentennial event have focused attention on this small country of 625,000 square kilometres located in the heart of the African continent near the Equator, with a population of two million.

The country is not lacking in resources, notably diamonds, timber, tobacco, cotton and coffee. It could be quite prosperous if they were efficiently exploited; instead, it is burdened with debt, afflicted by shortage of skills and an absence of stable administration.

But all this is momentarily thrust into the background by the coronation ceremony, for which between 2,000 and 3,000 guests will converge on Bangui. The new emperor, who does not believe in doing things by halves, wanted to be crowned by the Pope like Napoleon. He issued invitations to the King of Spain, the Shah of Iran, and the French President, whom he affectionately calls "mon parent"; just as he

used to describe General de Gaulle as "papa", to watch the ceremony.

The Pope will not come, but he will be represented by the pre-puncion. He is too weak to fly. Emperor Bokassa is a marked phallicist. The king and heads of state, even of African countries, will be few and far between. They did not, it seems, wish to be too closely identified with what is looked upon more as a carnival than a state occasion.

The emperor makes no secret of his great admiration for Napoleon and deep affection for France, although that did not prevent him, for a spell, from breaking relations and expelling all French experts. A thousand and one details of the regalia, the costumes and the ceremonial are deliberate historical reminiscences, with a large dose of African colour and exaggeration.

The new imperial crown boasts a 158-carat diamond from the mines of the Central

African Empire. The emperor will receive it in the stadium and place it on his own head, as Napoleon did at Notre Dame 15 years ago.

The Emperor will wear a 25-ft-long coronation mantle of red velvet, lined with eminence and sewn with 785,000 pearls in the shapes of stars and rising suns. It took 40 seamstresses 16,000 hours to produce the garment.

Empress Catherine will wear a dress covered with 935,000 hand-sewn sequins. The artist who produced these masterpieces is a descendant of the master embroiderer Hypolite Guiselin, who made the coronation robes of Napoleon and Josephine.

The newly crowned emperor will sit on a two and a half ton throne of gilt bronze, 10ft high and 12ft wide, representing a spread eagle, whose 800 feathers were gilded individually.

The coronation coach is a

landau, bought in Nice and completely transformed with the addition of a canopy, gold eagles and palm leaves.

It will be drawn by six

grays, while 120 men of the Imperial Guard, in brass helmets and breeches modelled after the Garde Republicaine will provide the mounted escort to the cathedral and the stadium.

No estimate is forthcoming for the total cost of the coronation. The figure of 10m to 20m francs (£12m to £24m) has been bandied about.

When asked whether there

had been criticism of the cost,

the emperor said the coronation had prepared a good road

and a new telephone exchange

and a great deal of valuable publicity.

"One cannot

produce a great history with our sacrifices. My people have

called for them," he added.

He attributed his success to the fact that viewers perceived in him honesty and fair intent.

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## SPORT

## Cricket

## Simpson gives Australian players a dressing down on eve of Test

From John Woodcock  
Cricket Correspondent  
Melbourne, Dec 1

Australia's recalled captain, Bobby Simpson, has had some strong words to say in Brisbane on the eve of the first Test match against India. A new Australian team setting up its higher standards of behaviour and sportsmanship is, he believes, badly needed, and one without the "hang-ups" of a side so badly beaten as Australia were in England last summer. Simpson was critical of the way, under the captaincy of the two Chappells, Australia's Test cricket lost pride in their appearance.

Much of what he said was, I think, fair comment. People meeting Australian cricketers in recent years have sometimes, I know, found the going disagreeably rough. Not that that applies only to Australians or only to cricketers. If first impressions are anything to go by, in the Packer camp, too, there are signs that someone has been reading the riot act.

After tearing his Achilles tendon at Geelong yesterday, Ian Redpath's comeback to cricket has been halted. Had the same thing happened when Australia were about to meet England or the Indies in a proper Test match, it would seem of rather more moment than it does.

With Redpath out of action, Australia's batting, under the Packer baton, has had to reinforce those who collapsed with such regularity under his brother, Greg. Into Redpath's place in Mr Packer's first Australian team comes Walters, who was a star in the Ashes series with the Australian romantics. To make up the number at Rockhampton, Mr Packer has signed

Graeme Watson, another retired Test cricketer, to whom such a chance as this is a windfall.

Reuter adds: Simpson had said in Brisbane that recent Australian cricket had earned a reputation as "slobs" because of their dress, language and behaviour on and off the field.

"Australian cricketers are tired of being branded as slobs," Simpson said at a press conference here today. Ian Chappell, captain of Kerry Packer's Australian side, was also critical of the official Test team from 1972 until last year took up Simpson's remarks and described them as "muddling".

"I think Simpson would be better off in a political situation at the moment," said one like the muddling that goes on at an election," Chappell said.

The clash between Simpson and Chappell was the first time the bitterness between Mr Packer and the cricket authorities had split over into the cricketers involved in the opposition cause. Simpson was brought back into Test cricket after 10 years' retirement because 22 leading players had signed for Packer and he would stand up to the conduct, dress and behaviour by his players during the Test against India.

"From now on, there are certain bounds on dress, language and slingsing of opponents while they are burning," Simpson said.

Chappell, who as Australian captain was criticized for the character of his players, said Simpson's comments on the way Australian cricketers were more determined than ever to win over the Australian public.

**Rockhampton**  
AUSTRALIA: R. Robinson (captain), D. G. Gilmore, G. R. P. Packer, J. M. Watson, G. McKenzie, R. Edwards, R. H. Khan, M. J. Prentiss, R. Hindmarsh, D. L. Underwood, Walter Abbott.

## Fast wicket will help Australians

Brisbane, Dec 1.—The prospect of India's batsmen facing Jeffrey Thomson on a fast, green wicket will probably inject interest into the First Test match between Australia and India here tomorrow. While Kerry Packer's cricket series begins a thousand miles away in Melbourne, Bobby Simpson's new-look official team will try to keep the lime flying for Australia's Test critics.

The Indians have won all eight matches on tour so far, against country teams and state sides clobbered by Mr Packer's threats. The Indian team, notoriously suspect against genuinely quick bowling and Australia still have a powerful attack led by Thomson and Alan Hurst. A Brisbane Cricket Ground director, Kevin Ford, says the Indian looks fast and grassy and

will help the quicker bowlers. India will be without their injured batsman, Ainsworth, and Gavaskar, an opening batsman, who has been out for nearly three weeks with a toe injury, will be a handful of caps.

The Australians have still not decided whether to continue the bating but Coster, who has all but Test runs at number five or six, is expected to go in first with the sour and solid Hibbert. The Indian team prepared Australia's Cricket Board yesterday predicted that the public would continue to support traditional cricket. Thomson, at his fastest on his home pitch here, could help them immensely.

Meanwhile, Simpson held a two-hour team meeting, analysing the touring team's strengths and weaknesses, and said cautiously: "You don't win the first eight games in Australia without being a very good side." The veteran Simpson

is not worried.

Three uncapped players in his 12-man party and Thomson is the only other player with more than a handful of caps.

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Back on the English domestic scene, Mansfield Town have sent three representatives to compete in the John Bond 9,600 metres road race, in Barcelona on Sunday. They are Neil Coupland (Southampton and Eastleigh), Michael McLeod (Harriers) and Nat Muir (Sherdstone Harriers).

**Motor racing**  
Twelve new formula one races for Britain next year

By John Blunsden  
Next year British motor racing enthusiasts will have the opportunity to watch at least 12 new Formula One races, more than twice the number ever before staged in Britain in one season. They will supplement the British Grand Prix at Brands Hatch and Silverstone, the Texaco 500 at Thruxton, and the British Formula 1 race at Zandvoort, and will comprise rounds of an Aurora AFX formula one championship to be sponsored by Berwick Timpco, the United Kingdom distributor of racing top gear and seatbelts.

The races will be open to grand prix cars, but with a tyre restriction in order to minimize costs and equalize performance. Grand Prix will be supplying all components, while Formula One will have five places in each race, one "wet" and two "dry" tyre designs. Owners of formula two cars will also be eligible for the championship, but they will have to fit all tyre restrictions in either formula one, formula three, Group 2 or Group 6 events (all

of which involve a very high financial outlay for competitive machinery) or in the new British formula one series.

It is estimated that a driver will be able to run an ex-works grand prix car and run it for a season for between £40,000 and £50,000, and possibly more. Indications that about 16 formula one cars will be in the grid for the first race, with others joining in later in the season.

This new race series is of vital importance to British drivers aspiring to grand prix racing for a new career. The system to be introduced on January 1 international racing licences are being divided into three grades, and for a driver to qualify for a higher grade licence he must have finished in the top five in three places in events for which he is already eligible. This means that before a driver can take part in a world championship grand prix he must drive in Formula One racing events which are already committed themselves to the new championship. Include Tony Trimmer, Dai Edwards, Val

Musetti, Damien Magee and Bruce Allison, all of whom have been invited to compete in the first 5,000 races, while former works cars from McLaren, Surtees, Tyrrell, Brabham, Benthik and Copersucar will be taking part. Each race will be over a minimum distance of 100 miles or 50 laps of the circuit.

The Year 1978 will mark the first occasion for many seasons that formula one racing has extended beyond the established six grand prix circuits at Silverstone and Brands Hatch. As the motor cycle world champion, Barry Sheene, at present his two-wheeled commitments enable him to compete in Formula One, but if he can find two more convenient dates he is a likely starter in the series with either a McLaren or a Surtees. He has already had one secret test drive in a Brabham, and drivers who are already committed themselves to the new championship include Tony Trimmer, Dai Edwards, Val

Musetti, Damien Magee and Bruce Allison, all of whom have been invited to compete in the first 5,000 races, while former works cars from McLaren, Surtees, Tyrrell, Brabham, Benthik and Copersucar will be taking part. Each race will be over a minimum distance of 100 miles or 50 laps of the circuit.

The double will be played on Saturday with the teams to be named an hour beforehand, though the two drivers will be the same. Alexander and Philip Dent against Panatta and Paolo Bertolucci. The two singles matches on Sunday will have Alexander playing Panatta and the other against Bertolucci.

Despite his 13-year career in Davis Cup competition, Roche has never played singles in a final round before, though he has won in rounds before the final. He has been used mainly as a doubles player in previous finals, usually

as the fourth man in a team. His touch was so sure, his touch so accurate that he never gave Azk a chance.

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## SPORT

Bloodstock sales

## Two sons of Northern Dancer to stand in England

By Michael Seely

For the first time the services of two sons of the all-conquering American sire, Northern Dancer, will be available to British breeders this coming season. Artie, owned by Richard and John Walden, James Whelan, head of the London Thoroughbred Services Ltd, has formed a syndicate to acquire Dance In Time, the champion Canadian three-year-old of 1972. Dance In Time will stand at the Plantation Stud at Epsom.

Only a few miles away at the same Stud, Richard and John Walden's Northern Flash, the winner of six races in Canada, Northern Flash has been responsible for siring 10 winners from only 11 runners. Prospective purchasers of nominations will have two options. They can either pay £1,000 for the nomination for a five-furlong or, if they can afford the extra sum, that yearlings by Artie will be available at £1,500.

Dance In Time, on the other hand, will stand at a fee of £1,000 guineas with a further 1,500 guineas, which will be payable if the mare is mated at breeding in foal to a five-furlong. Or they can put down 1,000 guineas on October 1 when, although the mare may have held to her service, there is always the risk of her foaling outside the season.

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Judged by modern standards Dance In Time may represent a better prospect for the general breeder than Northern Flash, because Canadian classic races are confined to horses bred in that country, so there is no yardstick to judge the mare's worth by international standards.

Dance In Time was victorious in the second and third legs of the Canadian triple crown, the Prince of Wales Stakes at Fort Erie and the Breeders' Stakes at Woodbine, and she will not take part in the first leg, the Queen's Plate. But he had already beaten Sound Reason, the winner of the first classic in a previous year. There can be little doubt that Sound Reason, the winner of the Northern Flash, was bred by E. P. Taylor, was a pretty good racehorse. When successful in the Breeders' Stakes, he had Gobules in third place, Shadwell and chased home by the American three-year-old Seattle Slew in the Flamingo Stakes at Hialeah Park.

The importance of these two sons of Northern Dancer standing in England cannot be overestimated. Artie, known as Northern Dancer, is the sire of Nijinsky. The Minister that successful stallion Northfield and Lypard. He is also the father of Robert Sangster's 2,000 Guineas and Derby

favourite, Try My Best who was recently placed top of the Free Handicap. Other classic winners, sired by Artie, include the highly regarded Gold Cup winner, Kingman, and the 1976 St Leger and Doncaster Cup winner, Northern Dancer.

Trainer's Seat, on whom Lester Piggott won the Scandinavian Open championship four months ago, was made a hot favourite for his first appearance in jumps in the Grand National at Aintree on Saturday.

If The Minister had stayed with Hot Groves in the Derby instead of bearing him by a short head, he would still have been worth much more than Lord Leverhulme's colt, on the grounds of his performance in the last flight.

As far as the purchase of these two horses has given owners of our best brood mares the chance of a gamble. And they have already recognized this fact. Lord Howard de Walden is sending both his horses to the Tattersalls' sale to be sold at the ring in Autumn. GLOW, who just headed the syndicate at the last hurdle, was a further length and a half away third.

The objective is to qualify Trainer's Seat for the final of the Panama Cigar Hurdle at Chepstow in the spring. That too is what the new syndicates will do with Northern Flash. The Tattersalls' trainer had a good season on the flat with 20 winners, but has only a small string for jumping this winter. Sir Michael, Mrs. P. J. F. Fawcett, was more likely to go for the SGB Hurdle at Ascot rather than Cheltenham's Bula Hurdle next week if he ran before the Christmas Irish Sweepstakes.

At 3.32 yesterday afternoon the total amount of money raised at the December sales was shattered. In

5.8 1972 buyers spent a total of 6.5m guineas. When the bidding for Brook Holiday's filly, Sweet Relations reached £11,500 guineas that figure was exceeded.

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## Racing

## Favourite is beaten four lengths by Mayhem

Trainer's Seat, on whom Lester Piggott won the Scandinavian Open championship four months ago, was made a hot favourite for his first appearance in jumps in the Grand National at Aintree on Saturday.

Only the news syndicates can afford the vast sums that yearlings by the son of the great horse have cost.

Mayhem, the winner of six races in Canada, Northern Flash has been responsible for siring 10 winners from only 11 runners. Prospective purchasers of nominations will have two options. They can either pay £1,000 for the nomination for a five-furlong or, if they can afford the extra sum, that yearling will be available at £1,500.

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PARLIAMENT, December 1, 1977

## Prime Minister opposed to free collective bargaining yet knows of nothing better to replace it

House of Commons

The Prime Minister indicated at question time that he ceased to worship free collective bargaining about 18 years ago and has had no love for the system. He said that free collective bargaining was not a means of obtaining justice or fair play.

Mr Norman Tebbit (Waltham Forest, Clingford, C)—had asked what advice or instructions the Prime Minister had given concerning publication of newspaper articles by members of his Government.

Mr Callaghan (Cardiff, South East, Lab)—Ministers are not debarred from contributing to a newspaper on occasion to supplement other means of informing the public about the work of their departments.

Mr Tebbit—My question arose from an article in the *Independent* in which he said he opposed any return to free collective bargaining.

In view of that article and the Chancellor's remarks, is the Prime Minister still committed to a return to free collective and unfettered pay bargaining?

Mr Callaghan—I understand that the article, or what is now known as the "Tebbit line", was a speech made by the Under-Secretary to his constituency Labour Party general management committee. Even ministers are entitled to take up issues with their constituents.

I ceased to worship free collective bargaining more than 10 years ago. (Conservative interruptions.) There is nothing new about this. I was in favour of free collective bargaining. Collective bargaining is not a means of obtaining justice or fair play, but at the moment I do not know of a better system.

The Chancellor of my position and no real advantage is possible without EEC backing, and direct involvement I like to hope, arising out of the present situation and discussions there would be continuing discussions about ways and means of improving the system.

Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk (Ormskirk, Lab)—Will the Prime Minister publish an article explaining that there is no room for free collective bargaining? Pay policy discriminated against the most vulnerable workers like public servants and those in the private sector subject to Government sanctions and leaves other workers alone and unscathed.

It is time to end this anomalous and iniquitous policy. (Interruptions.)

Mr Callaghan—Mr Kilroy-Silk is reinforcing my view when he

points out all the defects, weaknesses,ills, and evils associated with the system.

However, it has advantages and the main advantage I want to see the trade unions and the trade leaders accept moderation in wage claims. They do not have to claim excessive wage claims. On the future there will have to be discussion.

There is no intention—and the Chancellor is also entitled to a little time here—not to say the Conservative interruptions). We might have a little more thinking, while total lack of policy was exposed in *The Financial Times* yesterday.

Mr Francis Pym, Opposition spokesman on House of Commons Affairs (Camberwell, C)—With the Prime Minister's new pay policy, the Chancellor's thinking, and whether ministers are advocating a Phase 4 suggestion, we cannot draw a conclusion. Only a few per cent of wage earners have made settlements. Many of them are waiting to see what is going to happen.

I was told yesterday what a million local authority wage earners were saying about a current pay policy. The Chancellor is suggesting a Phase 4 pay policy.

Mr Callaghan—We cannot draw a conclusion. Many of them are waiting to see what is going to happen. It is wrong to deduce or suggest that there is likely to be a great excess. No one can say that when such a small proportion has been settled. The Government's responsibility is to prevent any further limits and otherwise is to prevent anybody in the private sector saying: "We did it because the Government did it."

Mr Michael Latham (Merton, C)—Does the Prime Minister intend to make the guidelines seek a legal basis for his 10 per cent policy and his secret savings which have no legal basis?

Mr Callaghan—No.

Mr Jack Ashley (Stoke-on-Trent, South, Lab)—Why do the Government not suggest a prices and incomes board to operate alongside a voluntary pay policy?

Mr Callaghan—The experience of price controls and the introduction of the new pay policy in the autumn of 1978. We have enough to get through the autumn of 1977.

Mr Wyr Roberts (Conway, C)—Will Mr Callaghan have another go at clearing up the messy situation left after the Chancellor's talk to the Manufacturing Group last night?

Mr Callaghan—The guidelines were published in the White Paper last July and that is what we adhere to.

I would not deter anybody, the Chancellor, the Under Secretary for Employment, or even Mr Tebbit, from coming to a sensible about the way we are going to get

Mr Callaghan—The guidelines were published in the White Paper last July and that is what we adhere to.

I would not deter anybody, the Chancellor, the Under Secretary for Employment, or even Mr Tebbit, from coming to a sensible about the way we are going to get

Mr Callaghan—She is putting words into my mouth. I did not say excessive demand was the cause.

I am saying, and it is not sufficiently appreciated, that especially in manufacturing industry, the level of comparative wage settlements is of great importance for competitive purposes.

In the United States settlements are at 8 per cent; in Japan they are at 10 per cent; in France they are 7.5 per cent; in France they are 12.4 per cent. Ten per cent in our country is by no means out of the way.

We shall lose our competitive position if we do not get employment unless this is recognized by Miss Maynard. She should tell her constituents.

Mr James Prior, Opposition spokesman on agriculture (Yeovil, C)—Would Mr Silkin say whether he is going to calculate a devaluation of the green pound by 7.5 per cent, would result in an increase in the cost of living index of about 6.5 per cent?

On assessing the national interest I hope Mr Silkin will give proper regard to the fact of the Irish producer whose interests are ultimately going to have a sharp impact upon the consumer whom he affects look after.

Mr Silkin—She should identify which section of the Irish economy that is and do something about it.

I have tried to do a quick mental calculation and I think the time and extent of any change must be judged against the national interest as a whole including the impact on the cost of living.

Mr John Peyton, chief Opposition spokesman on agriculture (Yeovil, C)—Would Mr Silkin consider calculating a devaluation of the green pound by 7.5 per cent, would result in an increase in the cost of living index of about 6.5 per cent?

On assessing the national interest I hope Mr Silkin will give proper regard to the fact of the Irish producer whose interests are ultimately going to have a sharp impact upon the consumer whom he affects look after.

Mr Silkin—One has to balance the consumer interest and the producer interest. That is what I am doing.

I have tried to do a quick mental calculation and I think the time and extent of any change must be judged against the national interest as a whole including the impact on the cost of living.

Mr Silkin—I might comment, but I will not because I am not in a position to do so. This has been an extremely good year for milk yields.

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Mr Silkin—I might comment

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THE TIMES.



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EXTRA SPECIAL OLD SCOTCH WHISKY.

# Property



Stone High, at Cobham, Kent.

Ask any estate agent to look for a house and the chances are that the word "character" will come pretty high up. Equally, the agent will find it difficult to define precisely what that is, for the word means different things to different people.

More often than not it is merely a preference for an older property in contrast to much of the modern high density "built to a price" estate development. So much so, that many recently built houses may be automatically dismissed as being without character, but this carries the matter too far.

In a steady flow of modern houses which have been built as one-off constructions, probably architect designed, to meet the needs of particular clients for good, if not of the ordinary but workable homes. Such properties are by no means the cheapest on the market, but often combine a good dash of character with the muted, understated quality of modern construction.

One interesting such house in the luxury class is Stone High, in Cobham, Kent, built about 10 years ago and now for sale through Strutt & Parker of Tunbridge Wells, for something over £100,000.

It is a long, low, "contemporary" building with a tiled brick base, a wide eaves-purlin roof and an unusually large balcony. It has two reception rooms, six bedrooms two with dressing rooms, a sauna and a room used as an office.

In addition there is a separate staff or guest flat with a bed-sitting room and its own kitchenette and shower room. The property totals about six acres and is set in a plot of 16,000 sq ft. Offers are invited for £100,000.

Also in Kent is Owl House, in Mill Lane, Marlowe, built about seven years ago in the chalet style in which interior layout has been designed to make the most of the hillside position.

There are two large reception rooms with picture windows, a breakfast room, a main bedroom, dressing room and bathroom suite and four further bedrooms.

Gardens and grounds run to about 64 acres and the out-buildings include a detached stone garage block, formerly a cottage, which has possibilities for conversion.

The asking price is £75,000 and the agents are Bernard Thorpe and Partners, of Cheltenham and Davis, Chipping and Payne, of Stroud.

Offers are invited for £70,000 and are being asked through Strutt & Parker, of Canterbury.

Also modern and unusual is High Moor, in Compton Way, Park, near Farnham, Surrey, built in the early 1960s. The accommodation includes two main reception rooms, a combined kitchen and dining room, three double bedrooms, all of which are on one floor. Above this is a large roof area more than 31 feet long and 12½ wide with a dormer window.

Gardens and grounds are about three acres and extend to about 120,000 sq ft, being asked through Messenger May Baverstock, of Farnham.

More modern than it appears is Bemis House, at Bradfield-on-Sea, near Shefford, an apparently Jacobean house which is in fact built in the mid-1930s. Construction is of mellow stone with a stone slate roof, twin gables and mullioned and leaded windows. Inside, good ceiling beams, some good paneling and some good ceilings. Accommodation includes four reception rooms and eight bedrooms, two of which have their own bathrooms. Offers are invited for £65,000.

Construction is of rendered stone under a roof of Welsh slate and accommodation includes a drawing room, some sitting rooms, a large kitchen with a dining area, playroom, a main bedroom and bathroom suite and five further bedrooms.

Gardens extend to about 42 acres and there is a frame of some 200 yards to the River Coln, with single bank trout fishing. Expected to make about £85,000, the property is for sale through Chamberlain, of Cheltenham, and Hobbs and Chambers, of Gloucester.

Carefully restored is the Old Vicarage, at Gretton, Northamptonshire, dating in part from 1742 and built of local stone. There are two main reception rooms, a study, playroom, five bedrooms and a dressing room. The house has views across the Welland valley and stands in about 10 acres. Offers of about £42,500 are being asked through Jackson-Stops and Staff, of Northampton.

Gerald Ely

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THE TIMES

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## SOUTH AFRICA'S VERDICT

The National Party, led by Mr Vorster, has won eighteen additional seats and proportionately increased its overwhelming majority. The election has gone as predicted. There are no surprises. The question is, rather, is there anything for the comfort of liberal and humane people inside and outside the iron carapace of the Afrikaner republic?

Very little, but not naught; what there is should be rallied. The United Party has been destroyed, its political site bulldozed. In its place there stands the very small, but realistic and now official opposition, the Progressive Federal Party. Though barely twenty in number it does stand for an alternative white South Africa. It needs to clarify, and even radicalize, its policy, and it sits in parliament to witness that there is a sizable minority of whites who oppose apartheid and who wish to bring the black majority into the political process.

This may sound lame. But South Africa is not, after this election, one-party state. If in all those black African states which still have an assembly and elections there were, unhampered and at liberty to speak with parliamentary privilege, a comparable opposition party, it would still be possible to believe that representative government remained a hope of Africa's constitutional development. As it is, most of those from black Africa

who will denounce the verdict for Mr Vorster will represent fire-power, or one-party intimidation, rather than the secret ballot. While South Africa has a parliamentary opposition and a few outspoken newspapers, hope must not be given up.

It is, furthermore, possible that so large a government party may prove less easy to manage. New independent Afrikaner voices may speak up in criticism on the government side. An uneasy but muted younger Afrikaner generation must realize that it and its children will have to take the consequences in the years ahead of the mistakes made by its elders, and may now find spokesmen.

Finally, the result clears the air in so many—the exact proportions have yet to be estimated—English-speaking South Africans have joined the Afrikaner nation. This may enable Mr Vorster and Mr Botha to claim that the whites are one nation, whereas the blacks are eight nations. On all tribal criteria it is not true, even now, but the blacks can take heart from a demonstration that voting for a party cancels tribal, cultural and linguistic dissimilarity.

By all accounts, Mr Vorster is now hoping, having got the whites fairly solidly into the laager, to get some camp-followers and auxiliaries in too. He is wooing the Coloureds and Asians with a new, as yet unspecified, constitution in

which they will have consultative assemblies (a sort of racial devolution) which will assist in selecting the state president—a titular figure only. It remains to be seen if he has more sweeping constitutional changes in mind. It looks as if he envisages a process of slow constitutional-making such as was pioneered by the Turnhalle conference in Namibia. The results

could be very different.

Mr Vorster has declared that while South Africa has given its decisive answer to foreign interference. Certainly it is a dusty answer for those who were so naive as to think United Nations sanctions would reduce Mr Vorster's vote. The purpose of

sancions is to serve notice that the world abhors racial oppression and will use any suitable occasion to weaken white supremacists rule, however long it takes. They also tell the black minority that they are not forgotten, that their struggle is supported. The Biko inquest leads to another reasonable conclusion that that was illegally killed by the security forces and that following this, the government responsible for these security forces has been returned with a large majority. The white electorate cannot complain if it is inferred that they have this week consciously taken on themselves the guilt for what has been done to Biko and those like him. They have marked their foreheads as well as their ballot papers.

to suggest anything except that the further investigation will be most thorough. It is impossible, however, to avoid the situation in which some will think that the procedure of a full and open inquiry has been refused because certain persons and institutions would be embarrassed and that the inquiry might stray into other areas. If an inquiry were to stray somewhat into an investigation of the wider collapse of property companies and secondary banks, that would in fact be fully in the public interest. The issues raised by the collapse of the secondary banking system, which in a sense came to include the Crown Agents in their extra-mural activities, have not been properly or fully investigated.

The central point, however, is that an informal inquiry working in private cannot provide a forum in which responsibility for this debacle can be properly allocated in a way which will satisfy public opinion. Those who are in the end blamed, as some certainly will be, will not have had a chance to put their case in public under oath. And institutions will not be able to show in public that they have put to right such defects as have been revealed.

For this reason it is a pity that the Government have decided against a full Tribunal of Inquiry. Given the past history of this episode nothing less than a full and open inquiry of this sort is likely to satisfy the requirement that justice should be done in public. Given the reputation of Sir Carl Aarvold and Mrs Hart's personal interest it would be quite wrong

If it had not been for the perseverance of certain newspapers and Mrs Hart's attachment to open government that is where matters might well have

## WHY AN OPEN TRIBUNAL IS NEEDED

The Crown Agents, as Mrs Hart said in the House yesterday, have had a long and distinguished history. As a result of the decision not to operate as agents for other governments and public bodies but to become in effect secondary bankers of a particularly speculative sort, operating extensively on their own account, this distinguished institution was by 1974 spectacularly bankrupt. The background to that unwise decision has been well explained by two committees of inquiry. The preliminary conclusion can only be that there was negligence in many places, among the Crown Agents themselves, in the Whitehall departments with responsibility for the Crown Agents, and in the Bank of England, which is responsible for the order of financial institutions. There is, however, no reason to doubt the minister's judgment that steps have now been taken to right the situation and that "nothing like the events described could ever happen again".

If it had not been for the perseverance of certain newspapers and Mrs Hart's attachment to open government that is where matters might well have

## REIMBURSEMENT FOR COUNCILLORS

If earnings were distributed according to a ranking of relative desert established by referendum—and dotter systems have been proposed—there might be some jostling at the top between nurses, firemen and zookeepers, but there would be few candidates for place lower in the list than local councillors. This public appraisal, which is by no means fair, has three main causes. First, there is a general instinct that when times are bad, rulers and governors at whatever level should suffer at least as much as the rest of us. Recollections of the local share in the recent upsurge of public spending have not yet been obscured by the successful efforts to bring it under control again. Second, the corruption uncovered by the Poulson affair and other cases will take years to live down. Third, public opinion is still in the habit of regarding councillors ideally as disinterested volunteers. The system of larger allowances introduced in 1973 has given strength to the charge—in most cases quite unjustified—that candidates seek local office with a view to lining their pockets.

These factors would make non-starters of the main proposals of the Robinson report, published yesterday, even if no official policy of earnings restraint existed to make immediate implementation impossible. This is so although one of the main purposes of the report is to clear councillors of the suspicion

fostered by present arrangements that they spend all their time thinking of tricks to enlarge their allowances. At present they receive an attendance allowance of up to £10 a day (and a payment for travel and subsistence which was excluded from the inquiry). In 1973 attendance payments replaced an allowance for financial loss suffered on account of specified council business. This had been felt to be unfair to the self-employed, who often could not prove their losses, and not to reflect how hard each councillor worked.

The present system has led to even more dissatisfaction on the latter ground than the old. So the report proposes reintroducing financial loss payments, but only as a minor part of total rewards. Each councillor would receive £1,000 a year simply for having brought home the votes, and those with special responsibilities (such as committee chairmen) would receive hundreds or even thousands of pounds more. These extra sums would create an incentive to more than token participation in council business. At the same time local discretion about the circumstances in which allowances may be paid would be sharply reduced—a proposal which would do more to safeguard the standards and reputation of local government than anything else in the report.

The committee insist that these payments would not be salaries, but the distinction seems an artificial one. Salaries are rejected because they would

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احد امن المصل

## a Special Report on the art, techniques and implements of handwriting

### More see point of variety

by Derek Harris

Fountainpens were revolutionarily enough in their day when they represented probably 70 per cent of the writing instruments business. Nor are they down to less than 20 per cent of a market which in the United Kingdom last year was worth some £22.6m.

That does not mean, according to pundits in the trade, that the fountainpen is on its way out. This is despite all the progress in the past three decades first with ballpoint pens and then five dip pens (which the trade calls markers).

The latest invention is the rolling dip pen, roughly a cross between a ballpoint and a marker. Even a new departure in propelling pencils (it uses a series of usually thin leads springing to prevent breakages in writing use) is making roads in a number of foreign countries.

The essential characteristic of the market in writing instruments now seems to be that at one time one person would make one pen or possibly a pencil or two or most of the writing obs necessary, nowadays he or she will own a whole array of different instruments for different jobs.

This is where the greatest expansion in the market has come from in recent years, although where fibre pens and other markers in the last six years or so have seemed to affect most ballpoint pen sales it is the rolling tip which either or both.

The total market tends to be under-researched with some comparative statistics hard to come by, but there is no doubt it is a highly competitive business in each of its sectors. The market end is dominated by imports largely from Northern Italy but with some from the Pacific basin.

Imports are the source of

many of the own-brand manufacturers to be found in the big multiple shops. But Menmore Manufacturing which produces the Platinum range is the nearest rival to Parker in the sector remaining independent with Parker pens—the gold nib market. The largest volume in this market is at about the £10 retail mark.

Nor are they down to less than 20 per cent of a market which in the United Kingdom last year was worth some £22.6m.

Imports overall represent about 40 per cent of total sales in the United Kingdom in terms of value and far more in terms of units. In ballpoints—the biggest single market segment in the United Kingdom at 41 per cent—about half the foreign share was slightly more than 48 per cent last year in value terms.

Mr Jack Margry, marketing director at Parker whose manufacturing headquarters is at Newhaven, East Sussex, commented: "Since the dip in sales caused first by the ballpoint pens, the nib market has remained pretty static for a number of years. But there have recently been signs of a pick-up and I believe there will be a slight increase over the next few years—possibly 5 per cent a year. One problem is the people who have not used a fountainpen or not for a long time; it is a very sophisticated writing instrument these days, none of the old splinters and leaks that some might remember from school-days, and convenient such imports.

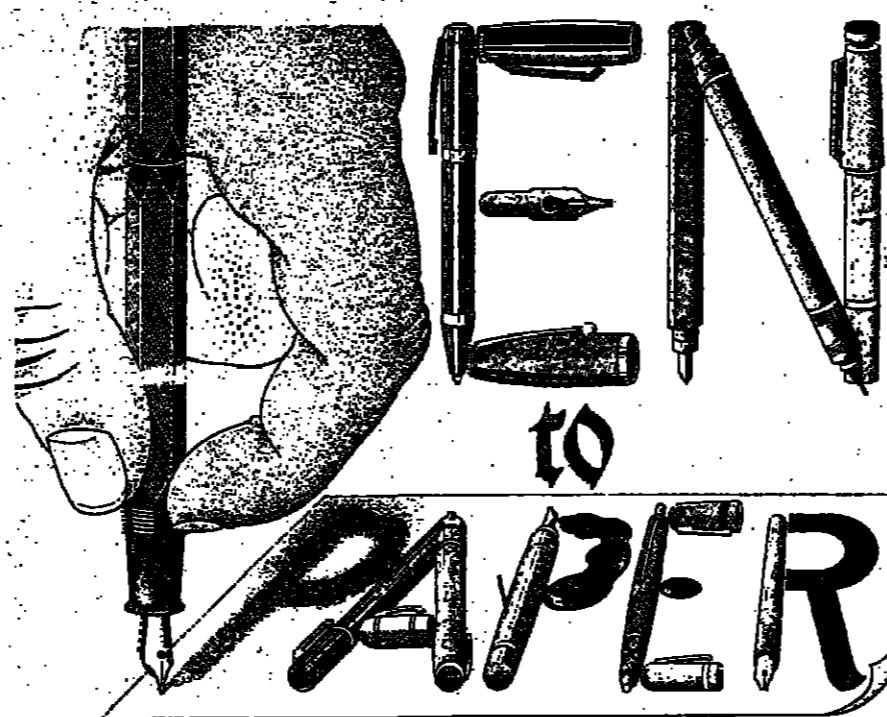
But foreign competition is not confined to the throwaway end of the market. A common assessment of the major competitors in the United Kingdom market is that, in value terms, Parker Pen led the field followed by Papermate, the subsidiary of the United States-based Gillette.

Parker, although another United States company, has been manufacturing in Britain since 1949, not only supplying the United Kingdom market's needs but also exporting to some 80 countries.

Nevertheless on the other hand largely imports from the United States and in the quality ballpoint pen sector runs Parker close for first place in value terms. Papermate certainly is ahead of Parker on volume, some of its range being further down market.

Last year 77 per cent of the Parker sales was represented by ballpoint pens, fountainpens being the other substantial contributor at 15 per cent. The other major contender in quality ballpoints is another United States company, Sheaffer, which does some part man-

confirmed on page III



Richard Draper

### Writers begin to show their true colours

by Patricia Tisdall

Great prestige is still associated with personal writing paper. Even though faster and easier ways of direct communication by telephone and air mean that letters are seldom the only clue to the writer's personality, and status, many people believe that a prospective employer or host will analyse the appearance of a letter including the quality of the paper that it is written on (down to the watermark) as well as its content.

But here a lion's share goes to Platinum pens that dominate the lower echelons of the sector. Platinum, while having a few gold nib pens in its range, has well over 50 per cent by volume of the fountainpen market, including those with steel nibs. Two thirds of the steel nib sector is represented by buying for, or by, schoolchildren. Young people still tend to use fountainpens for hand-in work at school although the pressures on

fully in this respect. However, the yardsticks have changed. At one time social agent letter writer and the status used to be related to the size of the embossing on the more exotic papers such as scented varieties and thickness of paper. Gilded edges were particularly valued.

Until the past five years or so, the only colours easily available from most retail stationers were a conservative blue or white. Since then, however, letter writers and marketing had brought a good quality notepaper with gilded edges were particularly younger ones in the reach of everyone's pocket. Writing paper came to be considered more as a guide to the taste of the sender rather than his decoration on one side. It

has now spread, particularly in the choice of colours offered, to conventional note papers.

Nevertheless, some of the old class-conscious attitudes to personal stationery have not altered. Thin, ruled writing paper is, for instance, still regarded as socially inferior. This attitude sprang from the delusion that only the semi-literate needed rules to guide their handwriting. At the same time, most popular writing pads to this day carry a heavy ruled sheet which can secretly be used to straighten shaky handwriting.

On the other hand, printed letterheads have continued to be considered socially as well as for practical reasons. The problem has been, until recently, that the supply of personalized printed stationery has been confined to a small number of outlets. Obtaining it has tended to be a lengthy expensive and tedious process undertaken by only a few persistent and courageous letter writers.

With a few exceptions, the choice of supplier was limited either to the local printer, who did not welcome having to set up his press for a short run of 200 or so sheets of paper, or to a retail agent of a large concern such as J. Arthur Dixon who placed orders from style books.

In either case it was rare for delivery to be made within less than a month. It was in the personalization of the stationery market that Mr Christian Brann, a marketing consultant with considerable experience of printing and publishing, saw a business opportunity. His preliminary research showed a demand for a wider range of matching paper colours, inks and envelopes than were generally available. Above all, people wanted the ordering process made simpler and quicker.

The research showed that, contrary to widely held beliefs, the potential users' favourite colour was no longer blue but yellow—a warm, pale beige colour. Given the option, 33 per cent

siderable importance on its

brand names. One of the oldest of these is Lion which colour was amber, a darker shade of brown, followed by white. Brown headed the list pad (depending on size)—is also the least expensive.

Lion brand paper, first

introduced in Calcutta in

1880, was adopted as Dickin-

son's logo in 1910. The

most recent, sitting at the

top end of the company's

Candlesticks priced at 42s

for a pad of 50 sheets and introduced in the mid 1960s.

Contrary to common belief,

the habit of writing personal

letters has not been re-

placed by the telephone. Far

from dwindling, Dickinson's

sales were expanding by be-

tween 3 and 5 per cent

until 1974 when they were

hit by inflation, steep postal rises and the general economic recession.

Growth in real terms over

all has subsequently been of

the order of 1 to 2 per cent annually.

However, while not reduc-

ing the number of letter

correspondents are tending

to write shorter ones. Tastes

have also changed, with the

result that the main growth

in sales is now in decorated,

illustrated and unusual short

note paper, usually sold in boxes. Here, although one of the first in the field with their Brieflets brand, Dickinson's account for only about 15 per cent of sales.

The reason for this is that

they have been large num-

bers of new entrants either

imported or designed by

craftsmen on a small scale.

As a result, the market is

much more fragmented than

for instance, the writing

pads sector where distribu-

tion is national and in great

quantities.

New entrants with original

ideas are competing for

older customers, who make

most purchases of personal-

ized stationery, and also for

the youthful fashion-con-

cious market, which buys

most decorated note paper.

Nevertheless, Dickinson's

is confident of maintaining

its stake as far as the mass

of writing paper purchases

is concerned, and is mean-

while opening up new mar-

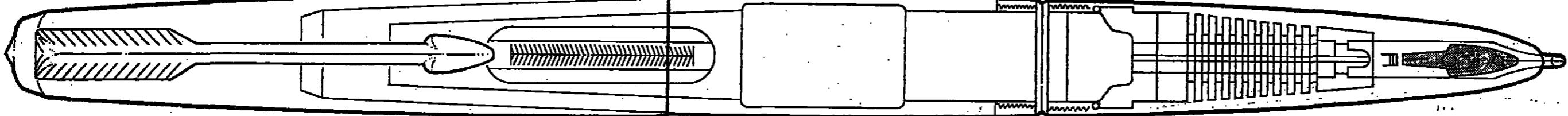
kets abroad. The range of

established brands has

recently and successfully

been introduced in Japan.

# A pen that merely looks beautiful is no pen at all.



Before you buy a new fountain pen ask yourself a fundamental question.

What are you actually going to do with it?

Is it something you're going to leave as evidence of your good taste on a leather-topped desk?

Is it going to be a status symbol with which you sign the occasional bill, at fashionable restaurants?

Or will it be a piece of jewellery to complement your gold cufflinks and cigarette case?

If so, take a look at the photograph of the Parker Cirrus below, compare it with other fountain pens that cost around the £22 mark and make your choice.

But if, on the other hand, you are

going to write with it, that's a different matter.

And we'd recommend that you study the technical drawing above, for it will tell you a lot more about the pen.

For example: do you see that little capsule shape behind the nib, the one with the fins?

It's called an ink collector and ensures there's always enough ink with which to write, but never so much as to blot.

And if the air inside the pen expands (due to high altitude flying or the heat of your hand) it'll prevent ink leaking into your suit pocket.

Another reason why the Cirrus will always write first time is the way we make the nib.

Starting with sheets of pure 14 carat gold we press, cut and polish it into a shape that perfectly conveys the ink to the tip.

At every critical stage we examine it under a microscope, particularly of course, when we grind the tip itself.

We make this from a costly alloy called Platetherium which is four times harder than steel and ten times smoother. It will last a lifetime.

There are eight nib-styles and if you find you're unhappy with the one you choose, we'll change it for another grade if you return it within a month of purchase.

We could go on. The clip is of rolled gold on phosphor bronze. It shouldn't snap or lose its tension.

The ink-sac is rubber, it won't perish or puncture (and you can replace it with a cartridge of Quink simply by unscrewing it).

But perhaps it's time to look at the photograph.

The Cirrus is finished in rolled gold on which we've drawn the finest lines to give it a quiet lustre.

If you think it has-style, good.

If you think it will reflect well on your status that's fine.

But if it makes you want to write, well, that's perfect.

**PARKER**

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MANUFACTURERS OF FOUNTAIN PENS  
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Christian Brann Limited, FREEPOST, Blackjack Street, Cheltenham, GL2 1BR. Post No. 908743 England

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No. of packs

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A6 plain card sheets	£2.95 per 200
C6 matching envelopes (4½ x 6½ ins)	£3.85 per 100
Correspondence cards (5½ x 4 ins)	£4.95 per 200

Postage and packing £1.00 TOTAL £

Colour of paper Tick  Colour of print Tick  Address position Tick   
White  Black  Centred   
Yellow  Deep Brown  Single line   
Amber  Royal Blue

Your own details. For gift orders, give all friends' details on separate sheet.

Name of house \_\_\_\_\_

No. and name of street \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_

Country and postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone no. \_\_\_\_\_

Print this address on stationery  Address for stationery attached

I enclose a cheque for £\_\_\_\_\_

Please debit my Access/Barclaycard No. \_\_\_\_\_

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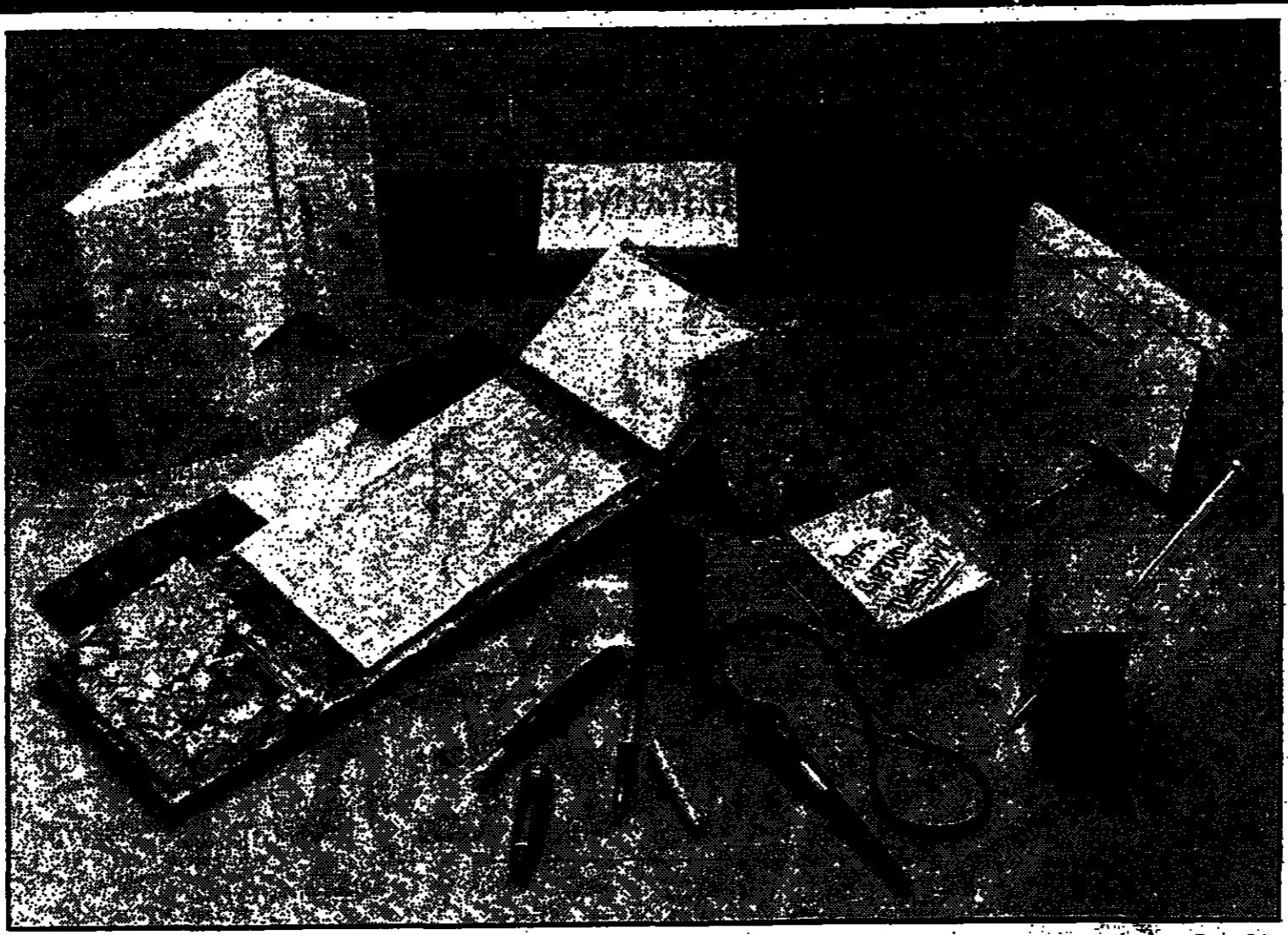
2 Colour Pen

World's slimmest automatic two colour pen... Contains two fine point refills with tungsten-carbide tips.

The Chromatic Two Colour Pen has a unique world action. No more fiddling with refills... it's fast. A simple twist to left or right, there's no need to stop writing. The pen is also extremely light and compact. Standard refills available as of 1st November. Standard gift box included.

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THE PREMIUM PEN CO. LTD.  
(Chromatic Division) 3/4 MALLORY ST, LONDON EC1R 8RH



## Long flight from goose quill to pure gold

by Philippa Toomey

at all to my correspondences".

A good pen, it could be claimed, would make even

Mr Bingley's handwriting readable.

At Mr Pip's Poole, it may be discovered that not only do people buy pens, they still buy pen nibs, sometimes a gross at a time.

The Birmingham firm of C. Brandauer & Co used to make more than a thousand different kinds of nibs. For the Queen's silver jubilee they listed one of their craftsmen out of retirement (he was 92) and made some special silver nibs, embossed with the royal arms—a set of 11 with a pheasant in white wood, presented in case, available free. Pip's Poole

now makes only 100 nibs a day. The population owns a fountain pen, but in the days when letters were written by quill, there was a constant mending of pens ("Thank you," said Mr Darcy, "but I always mend my own.")

A goose quill was the most common, selected from the third or fourth feather of the wing. It was considered best to choose the left wing, because the curve of the feather would fit the right hand. (For left-handers, take the right wing.) A sharp knife was used to shape the end—not for nothing is it still known as a penknife—and the point was then slit down the middle. Later on there would be a neat little cutter, rather like a cigar cutter, to cut quills. The quill replaced the reed pen—when the edges curved and bent, as not to cut the fingers, with the end cut to a tapering shape and ending in a point split by a groove to contain the ink. Not only goose feathers were used—the swan and the raven were also popular, with vulture feathers for large script, and crow feathers for the small. No one seems to have considered the ostrich.

In 1809 Joseph Bramah came up with the simple yet brilliant idea of cutting quills up into three or four lengths, like pen nibs, and slipping them into holders. The steel pen nib—and even the gold "pen-nib," which resisted corrosion—made great progress during the early years of the nineteenth century.

I remember a time when everyone wrote with pens and nibs, and everyone had a little bump (possibly untrained) on the middle finger of the hand where the pen rubbed. Nowadays it has been replaced by fibrosis in the shoulders of those who type. And yes, the pen has never disappeared, and there are great hopes that the art of handwriting may be returning.

The Parker Pen Company divides its customers into two categories: the scribblers and the writers. Mr Darcy was a writer, his friend Mr Bingley a scribbler. "Oh," cried Miss Bingley, "Charles writes in the most careless way imaginable. He leaves out half his words, and blots the rest." Writers buy fountain pens, scribblers ballpoints and fibre tips. "My ideas," said Mr Bingley, "flow so rapidly that I have not time to express them, by which means my letters sometimes convey no ideas."

The company will make up anything you want in the way of a fine—any colour, any ink, any type—

and the staff give the impression that they "actually like to find something difficult to stamping takes

time to do it" as opposed to

"stamp it as quickly as

possible."

From a fascinating book,

English Literary Handwriting from Chaucer to Dryden (Edited by Anthony G. Pease, Edward Arnald, £14.50) one may see

that the art of handwriting

is not only soluble but liable to crack off the parchment and for this reason it was not used on legal documents, until it lesson well into the Renaissance, referred to as "special black ink" used to make

the "peculiar black ink" used to

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## Away from the signs of the times and back to a fair script

by Nancie Gray

"Beautiful or fair writing, elegant penmanship" is The Oxford Dictionary's definition of calligraphy. Do we practise, or have any use for this activity today?

The dilemma that reading and writing are becoming obsolete, that we are reverting to a state of communication through signs and pen-made, is lettering and do write, but then

sounds only, has, it seems, rather than writing. It calls and one hopes—been rejected. But so we still need "fair writing"? Not in one sense; no one now makes a copy of a text, or in a elaborate forms and flourishes of the writing masters? In this sense it is typesetters.

What about fair in the other sense? We see plenty "elegant penmanship" as clever, modish or fancy book jackets, record sleeves and so on, but this is seldom flourish. Most people can

ring in, seldom elegant; indeed in as time in our history has handwriting been so mean and dull. The only degree to greater or less, is the cursive hand which one sees all the time. It is from our letterforms, reducing words to simplest, legible. This is done by the typewriters.

In this sense it is surely dead.

But there still remains the pen, which is again

regarded as resistance towards the

### More see point of variety

continued from page 1

them to use machine pens no longer appear to be great.

Platinum share is probably equivalent to about 20 per cent of the total value of the sector. Even so, with its substantial slice of the market for popularly priced ballpoint pens and an unusually wide range of marker-pens, Pledgeman in the total writing instrument market almost certainly takes a substantial third place in value terms after Parker and Papermate.

That would leave Sheaffer fourth in the overall pecking order.

Mr Christopher Andrews is chairman of Mentmore Manufacturing and, at 56, the second generation of his family in a business started in 1919. From his vantage point at Mentmore's Stevenage factories in Hertfordshire prospects for sales and profits are looking good, with a particularly lively export effort being mounted that last year took the company over the £1m mark in overseas sales.

This was just over 13 per cent of sales, turnover compared with the 29.7 per cent for the United Kingdom manufacturers as a whole, but there was a notable leap in marker sales abroad, an area where the United Kingdom makers as a whole had not been doing so well. Parker, as might be expected, is by far the biggest United Kingdom advertiser, next year, while continuing to import a range of pens, to maintain a presence in the gold nib market, from the gold nib market, from Japan. Platinum's pens abroad are sold under the President label to avoid any difficulties with near-harnessed Christies. Their spending in the United Kingdom exceeds £560,000. Papermate's Christmas campaign is also impressive at more than £450,000.

The author is Commercial Editor, The Times.

in Sweden—an important issue where children are using writing implements—probably accounted for some of a spectacular rise in sales throughout Scandinavia. Meanwhile, there has been a series of orders for fibre tip pens and ballpoints from Japan where the fibre tip was invented.

Equal optimism radiates from Parker Pen whose turnover, at factory gate prices, is running at up to £1m a year for domestic market sales and up to another £2m for export sales. Unit output last year was 11 million, showing an average annual growth rate since 1972-73 of nearly 16 per cent. Output this year is expected to jump 30 per cent to 14 million units.

Conway Stewart, Britain's oldest pen makers rescued from receivership by the Linpac Group, the Lincolnshire-based packaging company, has now after a period of new machinery, been turned round to a profit, according to Mr Colin Mansell, director and general manager. He hopes to double production next year, while continuing to import a range of pens, to maintain a presence in the gold nib market, from the gold nib market, from Japan. Platinum's pens abroad are sold under the President label to avoid any difficulties with near-harnessed Christies. Their spending in the United Kingdom exceeds £560,000. Papermate's Christmas campaign is also impressive at more than £450,000.

Technologically speaking Australia, traditionally a strong Platinium market, writing instruments look like the rolling tip or rolling ball pen. All the manufac-

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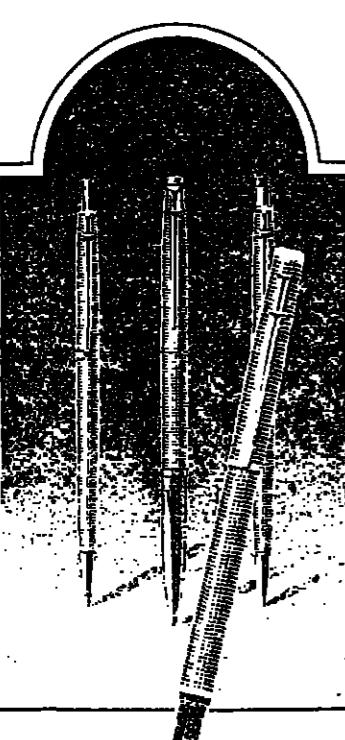
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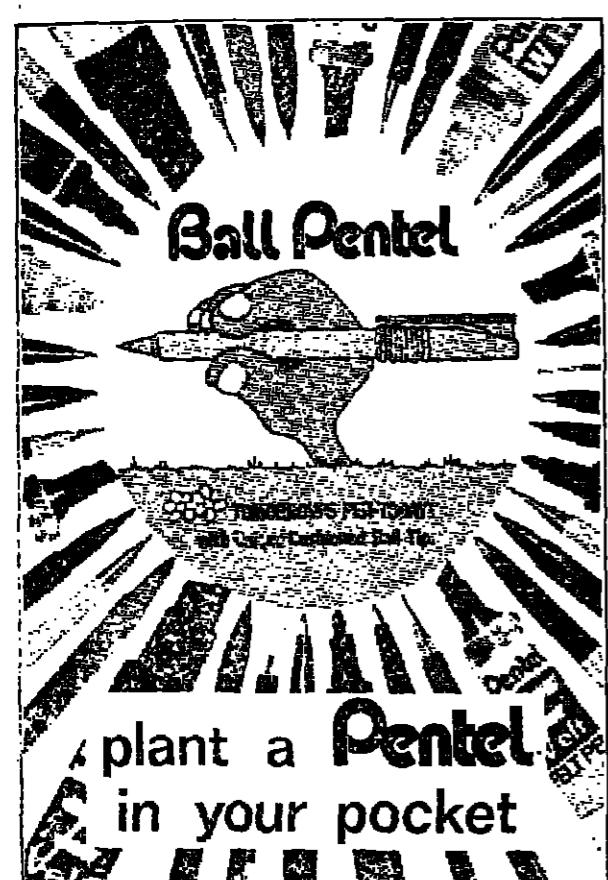
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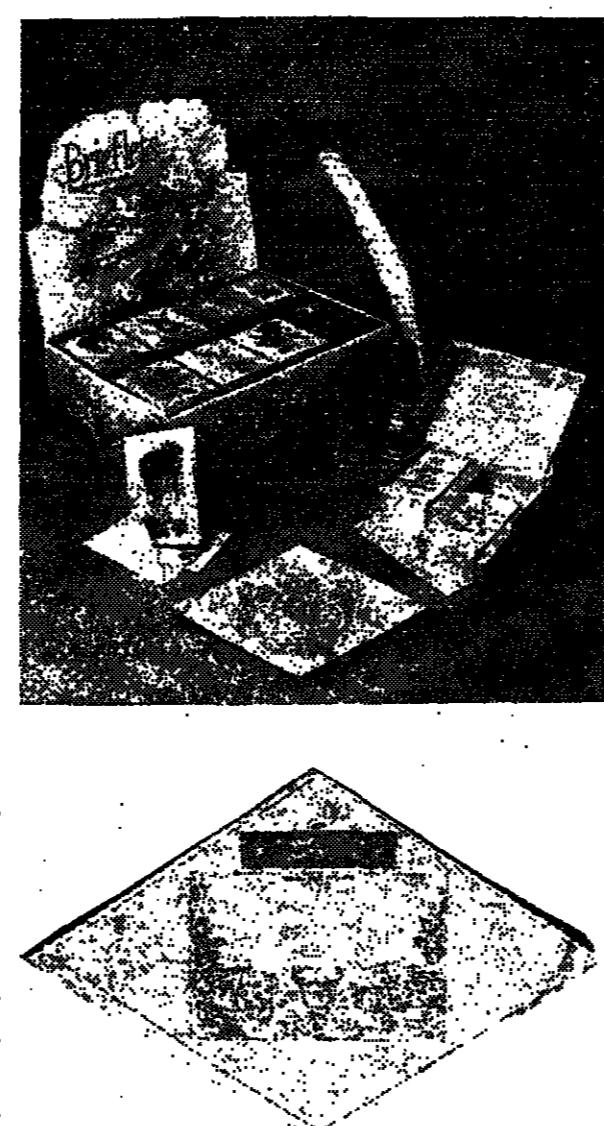


*Madison*  
CARAN D'ACHE



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## How the stamp's competitor came unstuck



There is little new or special in the techniques of marketing writing paper, but in recent years the popular demand for new designs—and even for new products—has grown at a striking rate.

A notable example is the success of the Brieflet—a single sheet of paper, 27cm by 18cm, folded in four and sporting a pretty picture in one quarter, which sells most strongly in the middle-to-cheaper end of the market. Its manufacturers, John Dickinson & Co, reckon that since 1967 its sales have risen from 1 per cent to 7 per cent of their market and are still climbing.

In common with its many counterparts—Notelets and Chatlets and Postlets and all the otherlets on to which the correspondent is expected to compress his address, the date and his most powerful emotions—the Brieflet's appeal lies chiefly in its size: "the short message for all occasions". It is ideally suited to a lazy age, when the telephone call, while cheaper as well as quicker than a letter, can still be less socially acceptable.

Product of our times though it may be, the Brieflet is merely the latest model in a tradition of personal stationery, marketed by Dickinson's on a mass scale, which originated 140 years ago.

Shown in the accompanying pictures are two early landmarks in that tradition: a box of stationery produced in 1899 for British soldiers serving in the Boer War, and a two-penny stamped cover issued by the Post Office in 1840.

Inside the lid of the South African box, known to the trade as a compendium or papetier, is gummed a facsimile reproduction of one of Rudyard Kipling's most famous poems, *The Absent-Minded Beggar*, written and signed by the poet. An accompanying legend states that Dickinson's bought the reproduction rights from the *Daily Mail* "for a large sum", and that the proceeds were given to the Reservists Fund. The box contained 24 buff-coloured sheets and 20 envelopes to match. It probably sold for 6d.

The stamped cover, like the box, comes from the Dickinson archives at Apsley, near Hemel Hempstead. Known to collectors as a Mulready envelope—its value today, unused, is about £45—it recalls the almost-forgotten tale of a Victorian marketing fiasco.

The story of that fiasco illustrates some of the finest virtues of its period: endeavour and ingenuity, patience and energy, enterprise and foresight. Nevertheless it ended in a mixture of tragedy and farce, and it is worth recounting in detail.

For some years before the universal penny post was launched in 1840, controversy had raged as to whether stamps were to be printed or applied. Convenience and security were the two chief criteria, and both had to be considered in relation to recent progress in paper-making technology.

Of the two alternatives most widely mooted, one was a printed sheet containing a silk thread, to be sold flat and subsequently folded to form a cover or pocket (the gummed envelope had not yet been patented). The other was the adhesion of separately printed and sold stamps such as were already being used in common use as medicine labels.

Clearly, the former method presented the paper manufacturer with by far the greater opportunities for profit, and Mr John Dickinson, who had long ago established extensive mills at Apsley in Hertfordshire, on the banks of the River Gade, soon became the cover's most ardent champion.

As early as 1830, Dickinson

had circulated members

of the stationery trade with a pair of demonstration letter-sheets made from the silk-threaded paper which he had patented in the previous year. Until then, and for some years to come, its use had been chiefly confined to Exchequer Bonds and other government documents which required authentication.

Such was Hill's confidence in the security offered by his friend's product that he was prepared—even anxious—to recommend it specifically.

"I should propose", he told the Commissioners, "that the public should have their option, either buying such paper stamped at the Post Office, or that they might send in their own paper to be stamped. There could then be no charge of monopoly against the Government."

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Foreign Report

## The 14-year wait for justice in Alabama

In 1963, Birmingham, Alabama, was "defended" by Governor Wallace, of New York, as "a synonym for barbarism and brutality". A newly-revived story of crime and (long delayed) punishment illustrates, as has no other single event, the social revolution which has transformed that city in the past 14 years.

On Sunday, September 15, 1963, fifteen sticks of dynamite exploded against the wall of the negro 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham. Four young black girls, members of the church choir, were killed in the blast. Fourteen years later, two women, on November 18, 1977, Robert Chambliss, now 73, and a former member of the Ku Klux Klan, was found guilty of first degree murder by a Birmingham court and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Birmingham, industrial centre of Alabama, neighbouring state of President Carter's native Georgia, was the most fervid bastion of white supremacy in the United States in 1963. Blacks could not attend white theatres, restaurants and hotels. They could not use the same elevators as whites. Even in death they were divided in segregated cemeteries. Birmingham had two sets of schools, parks, hospitals; even drinking fountains.

With the growth of the civil rights movement, the blacks of Birmingham, and their white liberal supporters (these "white" biggers from the north) aroused more hatred among the blacks, joined the swelling protest. The civil rights slogan sparked a reaction from white supremacists and no fewer than 50 bombings directed against blacks took place in the Birmingham area. No bomber was discovered or prosecuted. On May 3, 1963, a demonstration led by Martin Luther King was brutally dispersed by the use of fire hoses and police dogs. In charge of the police was Commissioner "Bull" Connor who, it was said, "wore his bigotry like a badge of pride".

But the television cameras were there in force and through the ruthlessness and fury of the police rednecks was exhibited on millions of screens throughout the nation. The American people were aroused and the widespread expressions of outrage forced the white leaders in Birmingham to abandon racial interdiction and begin talking to the blacks about sensible coexistence.

Not so Mr George Wallace, Governor, and indomitable boss of Alabama. He would not be party, he said, to any "compromise" on the issue of segregation. His election slogan had been, "Segregation tomorrow! Segregation forever!" A month

after the May 1963 violence, Mr Wallace, denouncing the law which he denounced as "illegal and unconstitutional", prevented two negroes from registering at the University of Alabama and honoured his promise to "stand in the schoolhouse door" to bar their entry.

Then came the September 15, 1963, murder of a Klansman in Birmingham, a murderer who would presumably have been unconcerned if he had been incarcerated with the main body of prisoners, who are predominantly black.

Ten years ago, there is little doubt, that Chambliss would have been acquitted. Today, as a leading Birmingham citizen wryly remarked to me, attitudes have so changed that "even if we were not guilty he would have got 10 years". And what makes the transformation even more dramatic is the admission that the four dead were black.

They were particularly interested in the alleged discovery of signal distortions in Doppler equipment at such airports as Los Angeles and Brussels. When they tried to refute the findings by taking some Doppler equipment to Los Angeles for a practical test they were confronted by foot-dragging on the part of the Federal Aviation Administration, the branch of Transport which has been bucking the TRSB system, the British say.

When the panel met earlier this year to make their recommendations for a new international landing system the result was a foregone conclusion. An overwhelming majority voted in favour of the TRSB system and suggested that a final decision should be taken by a full meeting of Icau due to be held in Canada next spring.

Predictably Lincoln Laboratories and the FAA have responded to the various allegations. They claim that the TRSB is more reliable, cheaper and simpler to operate than its rivals. But this has not prevented the British Government and Plessey, which is continuing to develop the Doppler system, from mounting an impressive attack on the way the TRSB was selected.

The allegations of foul play have proved sufficiently convincing to persuade some congressmen that there is a real need for the United States to be seen as having been scrupulously fair.

The anti-TRSB lobby has also succeeded in casting some doubts about the integrity of the FAA, which is one of the few branches of the administration outside the direct control of political appointees.

The prosecution and conviction are related to the revolution effected by the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Before the Act, Alabama had effectively disfranchised the blacks by instituting on complex tests for those who wanted to register to vote. The 1965 Act made all these tests illegal and today the blacks account for 25 to 30 per cent of the total vote—a formidable and potentially election-winning block.

In March, 1964, the police arrested a 30-year-old Indiana labourer on suspicion and subsequently released him. Three months later it was announced that the suspect was living in Atlanta, but no more was heard of that. At the end of 1964, the FBI said that a small group of Klansmen was responsible, but that there was insufficient evidence to make an arrest. In fact, all the evidence which secured the 1977 conviction had been collected in 1964.

Thereafter a long silence. In the meantime, Alabama in 1970 acquired a new, young, socially conscious and ambitious Attorney-General, Mr Bill Baxley, who determined not to let the matter rest. He says that he asked the FBI for the files in 1971 but did not receive them until 1975.

In February, 1976, Mr Baxley announced, "we know who did it" and the police resumed questioning of a number of men who had been members of the KKK in the sixties. Another year and a half passed before Robert Chambliss of North Birmingham was indicted in September this year on four counts of murder. His trial, which began on November 14, ended four days later with his conviction.

The evidence in court proved that Chambliss was in possession of dynamite at the time of the 1963 bombing, that he was a Klansman and had been previously arrested for beating a black man while wearing his handcuffs.

William Franklin

## How Britain and the US landed in a row

Britain and the United States are hoping to resolve a long and acrimonious dispute over competing new aircraft landing systems by taking part in a series of "fly-offs" at European and American airports.

The Americans are confident that the trials at such locations as Brussels, Christianssand in Norway and Kennedy airport in New York will prove once and for all that their advanced all-weather landing system known as TRSB (standing for Time Reference Scanning Beam) is the more effective. The British, on the other hand, are equally convinced that their so-called Doppler system will demonstrate its superiority. Both systems employ microwaves to guide aircraft safely to the ground.

The stakes are high since the winning system will almost certainly be adopted internationally to replace existing landing systems which rely on more troublesome radio signals. Nevertheless, the odds are heavily weighted in favour of the American system since an international group of experts has already tentatively chosen the TRSB as the preferred candidate.

It was during the initial stages of the selection process pointed out by the experts appointed by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (Icau) that the Transatlantic row broke out. Until that time the various countries concerned had shown a commendable modicum of common sense and altruism about the need for the adoption of a single world-wide landing system irrespective of its nationality.

Five countries put up their own candidates—the Americans and Australians submitting a TRSB system, the British a Doppler system (which the United States had abandoned some time before in favour of the TRSB), and the West Germans and the French their own less developed variants. It was agreed by all the participants that a final choice would be based on computer simulations since hardware for any of the systems existed at the time.

The body selected to provide the panel with all the necessary data about the competing systems was Lincoln Laboratories, an offshoot of the highly respected Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Although it was American, the British and others accepted its facilities as a neutral technical resource expecting it to provide data on all the systems quickly and freely to the interested parties.

In the British view, this undertaking never materialised. Many of the detailed findings uncovered by Lincoln Laboratories were never made available to them, while other data particularly damaging to the Doppler system was based on inaccurate information fed into the computer, the British maintain.

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David Cross

## The so-called civilization that is strangling the Cook Islands

The little world of the Cook Islands, first discovered by Fletcher Christian and the Bounty mutineers in 1789, lies 300 miles south-west of Tahiti. A protectorate of New Zealand until 1964, the 15 islands comprise only 92 square miles of land scattered over 750,000 miles of empty ocean. The remote northern islands are low coral atolls; the southern group are towering, jungle-covered mountains rising sheer over fertile lava valleys and palm-grove coastlands.

During the past 10 years more than half the Cooks' 20,000 population have shifted south to Rarotonga, the largest and most prosperous island in the south, where new Australian and New Zealand-promoted fruit industries export oranges, bananas, pineapples, and copra.

Ironically, it is the multiplying places of the world, like the Cooks, which seem to register most violently the aberrant currents of the time. As if the unwanted, privately owned fruit companies have not already done enough social and ecological damage on Rarotonga, the new international jet airport, the real coup de grace to the island's precarious individuality and the increasing tourist trade are bringing higher prices and a miniature money-classed society. Racial friction is rapidly taking on Tahitian proportions.

Rarotongans are almost wholly dependent on inflation-prone imported tinned goods, and this poor diet, which includes a disturbing amount of pet food, is already affecting the natural light-heartedness, health and beauty of the people, one rarely sees even a tiny brown in the pesticide-poisoned inland streams, let alone in the beautiful lagoons, where fishing was the main source of pure food until it was stolen recently.

What will be the effects of the mammoth Hongkong concern slowly buying up control of the Cooks' trading facilities and island passenger-cargo facilities? More than a million dollars has been paid recently in the Chinese acquisition of the A. B. Donald Company and the Cook Islands Trading Company, two of the oldest, largest firms in the South Seas. What will that mean, in time?



Unloading stores at Manihiki, 650 miles north of Rarotonga.

Cooks today, though, has more to do with the whole will of the time than it does with topical opportunism: what life there is not going ahead, it is merely becoming a new market for foreign trade. This is a new situation, a present-day tragedy, something apart from the age-old territorial plight of Polynesia.

If there were, as in the Kingdom of Tonga, more independent, far sighted leaders to stand up against these powerful and outside economic and religious influences, then the picture might slowly change and clear, and the Cooks might still rediscover, bring back and develop the best of the bleak present, while their integrity and communal spirit斗争 to extinction?

Known too long as the last unspoiled place in the South

Jackson Webb

## CONTRACTS AND TENDERS

### Ministry of Mines and Energy

#### Eletrosul Centrais Elétricas Brasileiras SA

#### Eletrosul Centrais Elétricas do Sul do Brasil SA

#### Salto Santiago Hydroelectric Project Pre-Qualification Notice to Suppliers of Emergency Diesel-Generator Sets

Centrais Elétricas do Sul do Brasil S.A. — Eletrosul, will invite bids from qualified manufacturers (selected by means of the pre-qualification of which this notice refers) for the manufacture and supply of the following equipment for the above-mentioned project, situated on the Iguaçu River, state of Paraná, Brazil:

— one 1000 kVA emergency diesel-generator set, with power and control cabinet, power transformer, circuit breaker, and auxiliary equipment.

Each bid to be invited shall cover all equipment specified above.

For the payment of the above materials, Eletrosul has available funds from the Inter-American Development Bank — IADB under loan 289/OC-BR, which has already been granted.

Participation in the present pre-qualification will be limited to manufacturers established in member countries of the Inter-American Development Bank, developing countries which are members of the International Monetary Fund and/or developed countries which, on the date of the invitation, have been declared eligible for this purpose by the bank.

The "Instruction for Pre-Qualification Proposals" will be available to the applicants, free of charge, until December 20, 1977 at the following address:

Centrais Elétricas do Sul do Brasil S.A. — Eletrosul  
Diretoria de Suprimentos  
Rua Trajano 33 — 3.º andar  
Telex 0482164  
88.000 — Florianópolis — Santa Catarina  
Brazil

## PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

### IN PARLIAMENT SESSION 1977-78

#### BRITISH TRANSPORT DOCKS

Notice is hereby given that APPLICATION is being made to Parliament for the grant of powers to the Board of Commissioners of British Transport Docks Board ("the Board") for leave to introduce a Bill entitled "The British Transport Docks Bill 1977-78" for the purpose of which the following is a concise summary:

Commissioners will be appointed by the Board to manage and control the British Transport Docks Board.

In the 1st Session of Lydney in the district of Forest of Dean at the 1st sitting of the House of Commons on 15 January 1978.

Commissioners will be appointed by the Board to manage and control the British Transport Docks Board.

In the 1st Session of Altrincham with Altringham in the district of Boulton and Ordsall at the 1st sitting of the House of Commons on 15 January 1978.

Commissioners will be appointed by the Board to manage and control the British Transport Docks Board.

In the 1st Session of Great Yarmouth in the county of Norfolk at the 1st sitting of the House of Commons on 15 January 1978.

Commissioners will be appointed by the Board to manage and control the British Transport Docks Board.

In the 1st Session of Teignmouth in the county of Devon at the 1st sitting of the House of Commons on 15 January 1978.

Commissioners will be appointed by the Board to manage and control the British Transport Docks Board.

In the 1st Session of Hartlepool in the county of Durham at the 1st sitting of the House of Commons on 15 January 1978.

Commissioners will be appointed by the Board to manage and control the British Transport Docks Board.

In the 1st Session of Middlesbrough in the county of Cleveland at the 1st sitting of the House of Commons on 15 January 1978.

Commissioners will be appointed by the Board to manage and control the British Transport Docks Board.

In the 1st Session of Grimsby in the county of Lincolnshire at the 1st sitting of the House of Commons on 15 January 1978.

Commissioners will be appointed by the Board to manage and control the British Transport Docks Board.

In the 1st Session of Hull in the county of Humberside at the 1st sitting of the House of Commons on 15 January 1978.

Commissioners will be appointed by the Board to manage and control the British Transport Docks Board.

In the 1st Session of Southampton in the county of Hampshire at the 1st sitting of the House of Commons on 15 January 1978.

Commissioners will be appointed by the Board to manage and control the British Transport Docks Board.

In the 1st Session of Portsmouth in the county of Hampshire at the 1st sitting of the House of Commons on 15 January 1978.

Commissioners will be appointed by the Board to manage and control the British Transport Docks Board.

In the 1st Session of Bristol in the county of Avon at the 1st sitting of the House of Commons on 15 January 1978.

Commissioners will be appointed by the Board to manage and control the British Transport Docks Board.

In the 1st Session of Cardiff in the county of Glamorgan at the 1st sitting of the House of Commons on 15 January 1978.

Commissioners will be appointed by the Board to manage and control the British Transport Docks Board.

In the 1st Session of Belfast in Northern Ireland at the 1st sitting of the House of Commons on 15 January 1978.

Commissioners will be appointed by the Board to manage and control the British Transport Docks Board.

In the 1st Session of Dublin in Ireland at the 1st sitting of the House of Commons on 15 January 1978.

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In the 1st Session of Belfast in Northern Ireland at the 1st sitting of the House of Commons on 15 January 1978.

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In the 1st Session of Belfast in Northern Ireland at the 1st sitting of the House

**Law Report**  
December 1 1977

Westinghouse Electric Corporation Uranium Contract litigation MJD Docket 225.

Lord Wilberforce, Viscount

Erphorne, Lord Diplock, Lord

Rasen of Tullybenton and Lord

of Kiskel

An attempt by the United States Attorney General to obtain testimony from British subjects for the purposes of an investigation into possible criminal violations of United States anti-trust laws by members of the alleged uranium cartel.

The plaintiff had made an order, as he was obliged to do under United States law, compelling testimony to be given by the named witnesses in the grand jury investigation.

As that matter had not arisen until all the proceedings in the court below had been concluded the House of Lords dealt with it as a fifth appeal by one of the named persons; and the Attorney General intervened on behalf of her Majesty's Government.

Their Lordships allowed interlocutory appeals by two English companies, Rio Tinto Zinc Corporation Ltd and RTZ Services Ltd, and seven of nine named persons described as present or former members of the cartel, intervenors against the Court of Appeal: Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Roskill and Lord Justice "awi" (The Times, May 27, 1977 3 WLR 430) giving effect to some modifications in the order remitted back to a United States District Court judge in Virginia requesting the High Court of Justice to issue process causing the named persons to appear before the United States Commissioner in London to be examined orally as witnesses in civil proceedings in Virginia and requiring the companies by their proper agents to produce all the examinations and documents listed in schedules to the letters rogatory. Those letters were issued on applications by Westinghouse Electric Corporation, a United States company, defendant to actions by the companies for breach of contract, alleging breaches of contract by Westinghouse for the supply of uranium and claiming very large amounts—£2,000,000 in damages. Westinghouse put forward a defense of commercial impracticability arising from the alleged uranium producers' cartel.

The letters rogatory, addressed to the High Court, sought the examination of the named persons described as present or former directors or employees of the two RTZ companies, or of "such other director or other person who has knowledge of the facts as to the terms of uranium," including the RTZ companies, had formed to regulate the price and output of uranium and limit competition.

Their Lordships also dismissed an application by Westinghouse from the court of Appeals (17 July 1977 3 WLR 492) which had held a claim by the two RTZ companies to privilege against self-incrimination under the common law and section 14 of the Civil Evidence Act, 1968, on account of production of certain documents in proceedings to which they were not parties but were required as witnesses might be under the penal procedure under EEC Treaty articles and rules.

After those judgments had been given, seven of the individual named persons claimed privilege and gave oral evidence which was inadmissible in the protection of the Fifth Amendment; and on June 14 they claimed a ruling from the United States District Court judge that privilege entitled them to refuse to answer any question other than give their names and addresses.

In July the Attorney General for the United States required under United States law that the witnesses in question should, in the name of the United States, when being given interrogatories against criminal prosecution, give evidence for the purposes of a grand jury investigation into possible criminal violations of United States anti-trust laws by members of the alleged uranium cartel.

The plaintiff had made an order, as he was obliged to do under United States law, compelling testimony to be given by the named witnesses in the grand jury investigation.

As that matter had not arisen until all the proceedings in the court below had been concluded the House of Lords dealt with it as a fifth appeal by one of the named persons; and the Attorney General intervened on behalf of her Majesty's Government.

Mr Kenneth Roskison, QC, and Mr Michael Barton for RTZ; Mr John Vincent, QC, for Mr Justice Roskill; Mr Samuel Silkin, QC, Attorney General, Mr Harry Wolf and Mr Nicolas Bratza for the Crown.

LORD WILBERFORCE said that in 1976 Master Greighmore made an ex parte order under section 14 of the Civil Evidence Act, 1975, giving effect to letters rogatory issued out of the Virginia district court at Richmond at the instance of Westinghouse, defendants in a suit by the plaintiff, the two companies producing electricity, alleging breaches of contract by Westinghouse for the supply of uranium and claiming very large amounts—£2,000,000 in damages.

Westinghouse put forward a defense of commercial impracticability arising from the alleged uranium producers' cartel.

The letters rogatory, addressed to the High Court, sought the examination of the named persons described as present or former directors or employees of the two RTZ companies, or of "such other director or other person who has knowledge of the facts as to the terms of uranium."

They also sought the production of documents according to a lengthy schedule alleged to be in the possession of the RTZ companies. The present appellants were given the right to examine and cross-examine the seven of the nine named persons seeking to have the order given effect to the letters rogatory set aside or discharged.

Their application was rejected by Mr Justice Roskill. The Court of Appeal dismissed their appeal but ordered amendments to the schedule of documents by deletion of certain categories of documents. The court also ruled that the application for the penalties provided for by Article 15 of regulation 17 of the EEC General Regulations for breach of Articles 85-86 of the Treaty of Rome (restrictions on concerted practices) constituted a defense within the meaning of section 14 of the Civil Evidence Act, 1968, so as to found a claim for privilege against the producing of the documents. The RTZ companies appealed against the first part of the order and Westinghouse against the second.

Since the Court of Appeal decision the individual named persons claimed privilege under the Fifth Amendment. The plaintiff had made an order under the letters rogatory at the United States Embassy. The RTZ companies claimed privilege against production of all (save six) of the scheduled documents on the ground that it would tend to expose them to proceedings for the recovery of damages. The claim was challenged by Westinghouse, but the Court of Appeal upheld it, and Westinghouse now appealed.

There were thus three main issues. (1) Ought the master's order to have been set aside? (2) Could the RTZ companies claim privilege against production of all (save six) of the scheduled documents? (3) Could the individual named persons claim privilege against self-incrimination?

The 1975 Act was passed to give effect to the principles of the Hague Convention on the Taking of Evidence abroad in Civil and Commercial Matters of 1970 which the United Kingdom ratified in 1976. Under such a trial procedure, gave wider powers of pre-trial discovery to the parties to a case to be produced in the documents to be produced, and the disclosure of the names of the witnesses.

Certainly the RTZ companies claim privilege against production of the documents immediately relevant to the issue in dispute and of indirect material by way of discovery, testimony for which could not be obtained. The Hague Convention enabled a state to declare that it would not execute letters of request, and the United Kingdom did make such a declaration in accordance with section 2(4) of the 1975 Act.

That showed that a strict attitude was to be taken by English courts in giving effect to foreign requests for production of documents by non-party witnesses. They were not to countenance "fishing" expeditions. His Lordship had much doubt whether the letters rogatory might not be construed as follows. It ranged exceedingly widely and undoubtedly extended into areas across to which was forbidden by English law. No grounds were given for supporting such a view. Some of the individual witnesses could have any relevant evidence to give; and the schedule of documents extended far beyond "particular documents specified in the order" of section 2(4)(b).

On the other hand, the schedule did list a number of particular documents which came into the possession of Westinghouse from an environmentalist organization, Friends of the Earth, in September 1976, and were claimed to amount to hard evidence of a uranium producers' cartel. Some might be in the possession of one of the RTZ companies of a nature over which they had power, and many appeared on the face of the description to be relevant to the existence or terms of a uranium deal. They might be relevant to Westinghouse's defense of commercial impracticability. The Court of Appeal had applied a

"blue pencil" to amendment of the schedule of documents. His Lordship would have applied the blue pencil even more rigorously, so as to leave in the schedule only "particular documents specified in" together with replies to letters where such must have been sent.

With regard to the named individual witnesses, some, represented by the RTZ companies, appeared from the scheduled documents to have attended or may have knowledge of meetings of uranium producers at which matters relevant to the existence of a cartel might have been discussed. In other cases no connection was shown between them and any such meeting, and the same applied.

So the question was whether there was sufficient basis for asserting that there was testimony of some identified individuals which was needed for the trial or whether the generality of the request invalidated the privilege.

On the question His Lordship would conclude that following the spirit of the Act, which was to enable judicial assistance to be given to foreign courts, the letters rogatory should be given effect to as far as possible; and that could be done by limiting the scope of the documents to be produced, and the disclosure of the names of the witnesses.

An accompanying letter headed "Grand Jury Investigation of the uranium industry" authorized an application to the judge requiring a named witness "to give testimony or provide other information in the above matter and any other matter which may arise during the course of carrying out the functions of the Grand Jury." That letter stated, inter alia, that "the testimony of the individuals for whom orders are to be sought is necessary to the public interest, because of the potential consequences of the following:

"The witnesses have refused to testify on the basis of privilege against self-incrimination and are outside the jurisdiction of the United States Government for use against a United Kingdom company and a United Kingdom national in relation to activities occurring outside the United States and in anti-trust proceedings of a penal character."

That the grand jury had issued a subpoena to Westinghouse, requiring the company to produce the grand jury documents and testimony obtained in discovery in the Virginia proceedings. Therefore evidence given in pursuance of the letter rogatory was not a privilege.

"The witnesses have refused to testify on the basis of privilege against self-incrimination and are outside the jurisdiction of the United States Government for use against a United Kingdom company and a United Kingdom national in relation to activities occurring outside the United States and in anti-trust proceedings of a penal character."

That the intervention of the United States Government, followed by the grant of the order and limitation of the scope of the execution of the letters rogatory was being sought for the purposes of the exercise by the United States courts of extraterritorial jurisdiction, which in the view of the United Kingdom Government was prejudicial to the sovereignty of the United Kingdom.

There was no doubt that in deciding whether to give effect to letters rogatory, the courts were entitled to have regard to any possible prejudice to United Kingdom sovereignty: that was expressly provided for in Article 14 of The Hague Convention.

Finally, as an argument concerning United Kingdom sovereignty, the court was without any doubt entitled to take account of the declared policy of the Government. In this case, the letter of July 12 made plain that the order compelling testimony and granting immunity was made in the public interest of the United States. That the making of the order was an exercise of government power, and not related to the civil proceedings in Richmond was confirmed beyond doubt by the statement that there was a flaw in the order in that it contained such orders in private litigation.

But if public interest entered on one side, it must be taken account of on the other: and as

## Equal pay legislation overrides wages policy

Hebbes and Another v Rank Hilsler

Before Mr Justice Kilner Brown; Mr S. C. Marley and Mrs A. L. T. Taylor

The fact that the implementation of a job evaluation scheme for women in equal pay agreement was made in June 1976, and that appraisal had been carried out with regard to the equivalent of women employees on similarly rated work. Statutes like the Equal Pay Act, 1970, and the Sex Discrimination Act, 1975, had to take precedence over Government policy.

Mr Hebbes and Mr Clay submitted that the basic pay for their jobs should be compared with a job rated with the same number of points. If a similarly rated job was done by a woman and the man paid more, then there was not equal pay for equal work.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal allowed appeals by Mr Barrie Scott Hebbes, a spares entry clerk, and Mr James Ernest Clay, an instrument laboratory test technician from a division of an Ashford industrial tribunal that their employers, Rank Hilsler Scientific Instruments, had not complied with the Equal Pay Act or the Sex Discrimination Act by failing to implement a job evaluation study which would have increased their salaries.

MR JUSTICE KILNER BROWN said that the Government's policy for giving sufficient attention to the needs of women was not equal pay for equal work. They said that the effect of the job evaluation scheme was that the job was worth what the women were paid and that they were entitled to paid the same as the men.

One of the employers' reasons for not increasing the women's pay was that there would have been an infringement of Government pay policy. That would not do. Statutes took precedence over Government policy which was not statutory in origin.

The employers submitted that given time and a free hand, the Government would have given sufficient attention to the needs of women. They paid to the same level as the men for a similarly evaluated job—an argument accepted by the industrial tribunal. But the law was clear and the question was whether there was any difference between comparable men and women doing the same job.

The Appeal Tribunal were of the opinion that once a job evaluation exercise was carried out, it could be expected to carry out a points assessment job evaluation study of all staff posts below top grades. An analysis of the female rates for jobs of equal value with the men showed that there was a difference between the lower end of the payment range for men and women for a similarly rated job had to be put right at once. whichever sex was on the lower pay scale. There had been no respite, and the pay increase had not been activated. There was, accordingly,

matter should be treated as governed by the rules—privileges given in the civil proceedings in question—of June 14 that the witness were entitled to privilege under the Fifth Amendment.

His Lordship would allow the appeal of the RTZ companies and of the individual appellants and order that the master's order giving effect to the letters rogatory be discharged. He would dismiss the appeals of the intervenors.

Vernon Dilhorne delivered a speech for allowing the appeals of the English appellants and dismissing the Westinghouse appeals. Lord Diplock concurring in the view that the order should be discharged the whole order as from July 18. Lord Fraser said that he would set aside the master's order if it referred to producing documents by the RTZ companies concerning the conduct of its affairs in the United Kingdom. The court should in such matters speak with the same voice as the executive: that they have no difficulty in doing so.

For those reasons his Lordship was of opinion that the order should not be given to the RTZ companies concerning the conduct of its affairs in the United Kingdom. Lord Keith delivered a speech concerning with that of Lord Diplock. Solitudes: Bell & Partners; P. G. Smith & Son; T. J. C. Solicitors.

# Rhodes in Spring could calm even the pressure-laden mind of our Julius Caesar.

Cicero: Politician and Philosopher. 106-43 B.C.



It was no accident that Rhodes, the most sun-blessed island of Greece, should be dedicated to the sun-god Helios.

And the famed Caesar must have marvelled at his discovery in the Aegean Sea, for on Rhodes hardly a day in the year passes without constant sunshine. Truly an all-season island.

And if you choose to follow Caesar to his favourite resort, you will find the same magnetic charm that once cleared warriors' minds of their homeland strife, living on as vividly as ever.

Today it manages, with total success, to combine the gentleness and legends of the Aegean with the comforts and realities of the twentieth century.

The Old Town drips with historical memories. The Castle of the Knights. The Palace of the Grand Masters. And the Hospital and hosteries of the Crusaders, each building Gothic yet each as different as the next.

Whereas, the New Town belongs to today, and boasts the very heights of Mediterranean-style living. A sprawling, sun-drenched coastline, luxury hotels with heated swimming pools (should you wish to swim at Christmas) and a hive of restaurants, tavernas, discotheques, shops and even a casino.

Festival-lovers are offered "Sound and Light" at the Palace and wine-lovers are offered Rhodini Park.

Adventurers will seek out any of the other Dodecanese islands, all but a boat away. And islands such as Karpathos, Kos, Kalymnos and Leros have characteristics that are entirely their own.

Distinctiveness and variety are by-

words in the Aegean.

Of course, the real joy of Rhodes' ten-month season is the attraction of spring and autumn. A perfect climate. An Aegean you share with less people. A local population at their most relaxed. A myriad of sports and festivals tailored to the milder months.

And most of all, a peace you can almost touch.

The choice of month is yours. The choice of island is yours. Just ask your travel agent or write to us, and we'll send you all the information you need on the incredible choice of Grecian holidays and how to fly there on our national airline, Olympic Airways.

Write to: The National Tourist Organisation of Greece, 195/197 Regent Street, London W1. Or call us on 01-734 5997/8/9.

And whenever and wherever you decide to go, it is perhaps gratifying to know that men of Caesar's calibre have already happily given their seal of approval.



## Greece and the Hellenic Isles.

They're closer than you think.

مقدونيا الراجل



## British Gas in Monopolies panel scrutiny of appliance sector

A Monopolies Commission investigation of three main gas appliance sectors announced yesterday, will scrutinize the pricing and other policies of the British Gas Corporation which accounts for 75 per cent of the retail side of this £120m-a-year market.

Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of the Office of Fair Trading, has asked the Commission to report within two years on sales of gas cookers, gas fires and instantaneous gas water heaters.

This will mean an investigation of appliance manufacturers, of which three—Thorn, United Gas Industries and Tube Investments—are thought to be in a monopoly manufacturing position of at least 25 per cent of their market in each of the three appliance sectors.

Mr Borrie's preliminary investigations have shown that

substantial discounts prices have been obtained by British Gas from manufacturers because of their retail dominance.

The role of British Gas in carrying out the larger part of the advertising for all the appliances will also be looked at because it might be felt that an independent retailer may get less opportunity to expand in the market.

Part of these wider margins might be attributable to the after sales and spares service which British Gas provides, said Mr Borrie. "They might also be some subsidizing of relatively low charges for servicing and may also subsidize some things as uneconomic showrooms."

The Commission will also scrutinize the manufacturers' export performance which since 1973 has been significantly inferior to that of foreign competitors' penetration of the British market.

The Commission has been asked to look into complaints from independent retailers of difficulties in getting delivery from manufacturers, possibly because British Gas has had

agreements to the restraints demanded by the commission for their 1978 textile exports, but want the permitted growth rates to be reviewed thereafter. This is unacceptable to the commission.

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The South Koreans have

## EEC 'stops clock' to complete talks with textile exporting countries on quotas

From Michael Hornsby  
Brussels, Dec 1

Talks continued today between the EEC and a number of major textile exporting countries despite the expiry at midnight yesterday of the deadline set by the European Commission for the conclusion of these bilateral negotiations with more than 30 countries in Asia, Latin America, Africa and Europe.

EEC officials said that "the clock had been stopped" to enable "intensive" discussions to continue with Hongkong, South Korea, Hungary, Romania, Poland and about half a dozen Mediterranean countries with whom the Community has preferential trade agreements.

The Commission claimed that there was a large measure of agreement with Hongkong, which is the EEC's biggest supplier with about 15 per cent of total imports of low-cost textiles in recent years. There

is a good chance of reaching agreement tomorrow, officials said.

But according to Mr David Jordan, Hongkong's Director of Trade, Industry and Customs, there was "still one major element" in the EEC's proposals which was unacceptable.

The EEC was demanding that Hongkong reduce its exports of four categories of textiles to below the 1976 level. Hongkong could see no justification for this, Mr Jordan said.

The reduction was being requested not to protect the EEC industry but to enable Hongkong's quota to be redistributed to other suppliers.

Initially, the EEC demanded that Hongkong cut its textile exports from the 1976 level of 151,000 tonnes to about 128,000 tonnes. It now seems likely that Hongkong will be allowed a higher import quota provided it accepts sharp cuts in a number of very sensitive items.

The South Koreans have

## Rolls hope of fresh deal with China

China is interested in buying Rolls-Royce engines for a range of industrial and marine applications, including the company of gas and oil, a senior company said yesterday.

Mr Donald Penner, Rolls-Royce vice-chairman, gave the news during a visit by Mr Li Chiang, the Chinese Foreign Trade Minister, to the company's Derby factory.

He said China had expressed an interest in a number of Rolls-Royce products in addition to present purchases, and he forecast that the company was in the early stages of a relationship with China which could develop greatly over the next 20 to 30 years.

Rolls-Royce have had close links with China for many years. The company signed a major deal worth nearly £100m two years ago,

and the South Korean have

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Talks with India and Brazil

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## BP-with Alaskan earnings to come

BP's product sales are heavily weighted towards Western Europe, and its trading performance, like that of so many other companies which are strong in this area, duly reflects the dismal conditions compounded in France's case by price controls prevailing in most markets. Weak demand has been reflected in prices so that, while costs are up, realizations are down and with the dollar weak as well, third-quarter net income of £44m is a good £5m or more below the lower range of stock market forecasts. It is a depressingly familiar story, and leaves BP's net income down both on the £75.7m of the second quarter and the £51.9m of the third-quarter last year, although for the first three-quarters earnings are up from £124m to £121m.

But the key for BP, and the factor which makes it still a more attractive investment than Shell, is the transformation it is about to undergo. During the third quarter Alaska oil began to flow for the first time. The build-up has had some teething problems, leaving BP with both a \$16m loss on its share of the pipeline and lower earnings from its stake in Sohio, but in the final quarter Alaska should be positive and it will then feed through very strongly indeed during the first-half of next year, culminating in an increase in the Sohio stake from about 40 per cent at the end of this year to 53 per cent, probably by about next June.

The impact on 1978 earnings, given that Forties will still be building up as well, will be dramatic. Net income will almost certainly be more than doubled from this year's likely £300m or more, with the prospect of still more impressive growth to come in the subsequent two years.

Meanwhile, there is reason to look for more good news for BP, both in terms of its North Sea exploration and the level of Alaskan reserves which should do much to offset the continuing dullness of its main European markets. So far there is no sign of a trading upturn, but BP's shares, 900p last night where they sell at about 11 times prospective earnings, should be held more for the fundamental prospects of the next three years than the immediate trading conditions.

Racial

### Profits are not the problem

Racial is now holding its breath hoping that the cold wind blowing from the Old Bailey, where two former executives face corruption charges, will die down. Meanwhile, with £19.4m profits under its belt at the interim stage, the group is forecasting not less than £45 for the year—an indicated 37½ per cent gain which since it will probably turn out to be conservative anyway fits in well with the sort of compound growth Racial has been achieving for several years now. When a company grows as fast as this, questions are bound to be asked about whether the pace can be maintained.

This factor coupled with the resignation of Racial's deputy chairman this week ensured that yesterday's half-year statement would get a less than enthusiastic reception from the market. The shares, weak for some time now, ended the day 1p better at 208p. Here Racial followers are beginning to put up cogent arguments for a "buying opportunity"—though given a yield of only 2.8 per cent that must be based on the assumption that Racial remains one of the few real growth stocks around.

It is true that at the moment everything seems to be going well. The only slight cloud so far this year—and one which already shows signs of disappearing—is strategic communications. Otherwise, Racial can point to profits of some £10m due this year from data communications, an undoubtedly growth area which suggests that the acquisition of Milgo in the United States earlier this year was right despite the fact that it temporarily changed the profile of the balance sheet.

Still, with some £48m of cash and real progress being made towards rescheduling dollar debt after the Milgo acquisition, Racial is well able to make another sizable move in the near future. It badly wants to get involved in any restructuring of the telecommunications business in this country and there are signs that the Government, NEB and the Post Office would now like to see changes of this sort take place.

But Racial, as I have said before, is at an important transitional stage between being

a large medium-sized company and a large company. Moreover, untoward factors are making that transition painful, a point that is not lost on the institutions who have for some time been heavy investors in Racial. Their attitude, more than anything else, will dictate what happens to the share price during the next six months, and at the moment they show characteristic signs of nervousness.

Bass

### Lifting the depression

Results from Bass Charrington yesterday went some way towards dispelling the clouds of gloom which had been gathering over the brewery sector even before Whitbread announced disappointing results earlier this month.

But, as Bass itself points out ahead of delicate discussions with Mr Hattersley, most of the 32 per cent pre-tax profits increase to £90.4m is due to loss



Mr Derek Palmer, chairman of Bass Charrington.

elimination; last year's figures being depressed by a £4.5m provision against the value of Bordeaux wine stocks and a cautious £7.4m provision for exchange differences.

So, far in Bass's defensive characteristics which has seen the shares outperform the market by twice the 14 per cent sector average over the last 12 months has been further enhanced. The shares gained 9p to 161p yesterday where the p/e ratio is well in line with the industry average at under 10 and the yield rather lower at just over 4 per cent.

That could provide the cue for some profit-taking, particularly as there are fears that Mr Hattersley will come down on the side of the recent controversial Price Commission report on the industry.

But Bass still has two aces up its sleeve: one concerns the view that beer sales could start to move ahead again sharply on the back of a consumer spending upturn—with lager leading the way. The other is the dividend: this year's payment is 3.4 times covered and a boost of at least 50 per cent would be possible if restraints are lifted.

Such unevenness between the two halves at National and Commercial Banking—pre-tax profits were only 5 per cent ahead at £31.1m in the opening half but jumped 12 per cent to £35m in the second despite the 4.5 per cent drop in average base rate to 8.4 per cent—is not altogether explained by the third widening of the margin between the base and deposit rates to 4.35 per cent in the second half.

There were, it is true, some compensating factors in the share of continued momentum in the level of advances, especially at Royal Bank of Scotland, which were 6 per cent ahead on the year, profits from gilts (running yields rather than realizations which are amortized over a five-year period), and a £1.2m increase in associates thanks to increased profits from Lloyds & Scottish, FFI and loss minimization in Australia.

But it also looks as though the sterling money book recovered some of its composure after a dicey first-half while the rise in bad debt provisions in the first-half may have tailed off.

So it looks as though NatCom's results, normally a fair guide to the London clearers' profits because only a quarter of its earnings are overseas, may be misleading. The shares gained 4p to 74p on the results where the yield of 5.4 per cent is about par for the sector.

Faced with this melancholy

On May 13, 1974, a meeting was held in Whitehall attended by Sir Jasper Hollom, the Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, and Sir Douglas Mass, the Treasury Permanent Secretary. Also present was Sir Claude Hayes, senior Crown Agent. In the words of Sir Jasper: "We went into that meeting perfectly clear that in all ordinary terms the Crown Agents were busy, or were capable of being busy".

The collapse of the Crown Agents-backed Stern property group was threatened and, no one had any illusions about the possible impact. What was more critical, no one had a balance sheet. Then there and there, a Crown Agent officer, drafted one on the back of an envelope.

This, for the purposes of history, was the moment of truth after the years of privatization in high places during which a string of journalists' vanity drew attention to the organization's history of an incorporated historic organization providing a haven for speculators, financiers and property developers.

Yesterday's report of the three-man committee of inquiry is one of the most astonishing documents to be published in modern times, chronicling what the Government has immediately described as a failure to apply the normal principles of public accountability.

No one escapes criticism: the sponsoring Ministry of Overseas Development, the Treasury, the Bank of England, the Exchequer and Audit Department, individual Crown Agents and their staff ministers, and some businessmen.

No one who has followed the tangled story of the Crown Agents' rescue by the able Mr John Cuckney, backed by Government's pledges of support and a grant, can but fail to be impressed by the thoroughness of the Fay report

The findings of the Fay report provide revelations and allegations which must inevitably require further investigation, both for the protection of individuals who are named and to ensure that nothing of this sort can be repeated.

After two years of evidence, they now have, too, the previously confidential report prepared by a team led by Sir Matthew Stevenson, which before the storm broke had advised redefining the status of the organization established in 1883 to raise loans and procure supplies for colonial governments.

It is a matter of fact that in October, 1968, when Sir Claude Hayes succeeded as chairman of the Crown Agents, The Times in examining the organization when being placed in his stewardship commented on its anomalous constitution and accountability and stated: "The checks that do exist are mild and virtually ineffective".

Whether that judgment was correct, with respect to all the records and information of Whitehall and access to records of subsequent inquiries, can be tested against matters now disclosed by Judge Fay and his two colleagues, Sir Edmund Compton and Mr Peter Godfrey.

The findings of the Fay report provide revelations and allegations which must inevitably require further investigation; both for the protection of individuals who are named and to ensure that nothing of this sort can be repeated again.

In their way, both the Commons Public Accounts Committee and the Exchequer and Audit Department have done their best to expose the shortcomings of the organization.

Until the Crown Agents are completely disengaged from the property and secondary banking sectors, no one can predict the ultimate loss. The official deficit on property and banking investments has already totalled £21m but it is still in Parliament's recent records that, bar for an emergency Moneylenders Act, there may have been exposure to a risk of £400m.

The thoroughness of Fay can be judged from the fact that it met on 85 occasions and took evidence from 46 witnesses, using the analogy of a Committee of Enquiry though it had not a committee.

Yet, whatever the losses of the agents, which are still beyond estimate (and therefore the liabilities to public funds cannot be assessed) there are signs that the traditional services of the agents in buying and providing services to overseas principals have not been damaged. Business is at a record level and deposits are as high as ever.

The Crown Agents record of companies it supported and deals with speaks for itself. Many no longer exist, drowned

in spite of lifeboats sent out from the City, and those saved are changed by the experience. Until the Crown Agents are completely disengaged from the property and secondary banking sectors, no one can predict the ultimate loss. The official deficit on property and banking investments has already totalled £21m but it is still in Parliament's recent records that, bar for an emergency Moneylenders Act, there may have been exposure to a risk of £400m.

While a new inquiry concerned with any alleged breach of duty now to be set in hand, the future of the Crown Agents has yet to be resolved. A White Paper, published in April, 1976, has indicated the Government's intention that the Agents should become a legal entity through incorporation by statute. The functions and powers of a sponsoring minister could then be defined. On incorporation, the intention has been to give the organization a proper capital structure and borrowing powers appropriate to the assets, liabilities and on-going activities.

In the meantime, the Crown Agents, under Mr Cuckney, survives only on the basis of ministerial declarations of support, which is clearly out of all proportion to the liabilities set down in a special realization account for present enabling the organization to disengage from unwise investments of the past.

There is no doubt that Mr Cuckney has been fighting, against impossible odds, given the nature of the liabilities and the need to invest in moves, such as an Australian property, to reduce the potential losses. He has done a first-class job. But, sooner rather than later, the Government must act to clarify the Crown Agents' status and to determine the appropriate accountability to parliament.

Catastrophe, says Fay, is not too strong a word to use. Only then will a sorry chapter in an otherwise distinguished 144 years of operations be said to be over.

Kenneth Owen, Technology Correspondent

## Breaking down the engineers' stockades

There is a literal and unpleasant truth in the oft-repeated references to the "explosive" growth of technology. Explosions change their environment in a catastrophic manner; they are irreversible and, once they have consumed the resource that has sustained them, they blow themselves out.

So with technology. In particular, resources which have been sustained—technology in the past are becoming exhausted. New constraints surround the engineer and, if technology (alias engineering) is to survive, it will be in a very different shape.

This parallel has been drawn by Sir Iestyn Maddock, formerly Chief Scientist at the Department of Industry and now Secretary of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. In his recent Jubilee Lecture at Imperial College, London, Sir Iestyn posed the question: "Does engineering have a future?"

The new constraints are not caused simply by the depletion of resources such as cheap energy supplies and minerals, though that is of basic importance. The growth of population and demands on dwindling resources and the "third world" countries are rightly demanding their share of the world's assets and privileges.

Congestion of various amenities is evident—in city centres, sea routes, air lanes, beaches, inland waterways, the radio frequency spectrum and so on.

There is also growing public opposition to the intrusion of new technologies which are seen as sources of nuisance or danger; an increasing recognition that the advance of technology is dehumanizing and a growing conviction that unemployment resulting from all over-advanced world because of structural changes produced by technological change.

Secondly, the need to be thrifty in the use of precious resources will become dominant. An open-ended consumer society based only on the price regulator will not be adequate.

The two main shortages will come from the limitations of energy supply and the depletion of the more critical minerals.

The importance of the quest for new sources of energy is already recognized, but much more attention must be paid to the ways in which energy is

consumed. Two thirds of the energy put into power stations is discarded, usually to the detriment of the environment. The wastage of energy in space heating, in transport and in the manufacture of materials such as steel, aluminium, copper, cement and paper is vast.

The habit of producing league tables of rates of growth of gross national product will become less relevant. It is already misleading to equate "the economy" with "manufacturing", yet technologists seem to overlook the service industries as a component of the economy and of the complete social machine.

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Fourthly, the distribution of wealth among the countries of the world will change as supplies become more scarce. The rate at which technology is dif-

fused among countries will continue to increase, following the example of the rapid absorption of new technology by such countries as Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and the Philippines.

Thus the export of goods will become less common and the export of technology more common.

Finally, the types of technology that are needed are likely to change away from the advanced "super star" technologies towards the medium-level ones that are industrially and socially valuable. Away from those which have dominated the form of energy and raw materials, and away from those that are capital-intensive towards those that show high added-value and are labour-intensive.

For the engineer these changes will mean challenges that are much more demanding than those of the past. It would help. Sir Iestyn argues, if the technological stockade is called for.

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Ready for take-off: British Airways' Dilbert.

wins his wings, Dilbert, on safari, Dilbert down under, and Dilbert and the Dodo will be published at £1.25 apiece a week today.

Dilbert was launched in this way after a 12-year-old club member, Claire Howlett, suggested he had a book or books in him. All will be written by Kate Robertson, in the writing of a

Soviet enemies in ever more devious ways, the Chinese to start exporting vodka to America. The vodka, called Great Wall Chinese Vodka, will be more expensive than anything from Russia and is being sold under the slogan: "They told us we were making vodka for the good of the party!"



## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

**UKO International ahead despite slide in margins**

UK Optical & Industrial Holdings, which escaped this year successfully from the tax consequences of the Paymaster, reported an increased £1.5m profit of 5 per cent to £1.5m for the six months to September 30.

Turnover on the other hand jumped from £16.1m to £19.0m sending margins sliding from 11.1 per cent to 9.9 per cent. The directors have decided an interim dividend of 4.0p gross compared with 4.0p for the corresponding period.

The board reports that demand at home and abroad for the group's products has remained well below normal levels throughout the half-year. The increase in sales on the

other hand was largely attributable to the effect of recent acquisitions by the group.

The increase in profits was only partly attributable to these, however.

The capital expenditure programme undertaken by UKO in recent years is yielding increased profits, but this has been hampered by output and labour problems in certain areas. Steps however are being taken to eliminate these problems. Another factor which also reduced the contribution to profits was the adverse exchange rates on conversion of profits from overseas branches.

At present however the board says that the group is well placed in all markets to take immediate advantage of a upturn in demand.

Sales of the group's catering equipment division were satisfactory during the first six months and prospects for exports are brighter than for some time.

The volume and value of export inquiries on hand at the end of the half year were much higher than in the recent past.

Profits were satisfactory and would have been higher but for the effects of a labour dispute during the first half.

Return of the group, which is the world's second largest maker of ophthalmic glass lenses, rose 26 per cent to £4.17m for the year to March 31. News of the results set the

shares back 1p to 177p

**Turnover drops but 600 Gp up 13 pc**

By Our Financial Staff

After a cautious approach to the current year in financial markets Sir Jack Wallings, the chairman of the 600 Group, the company has managed a 13 per cent pre-tax profit increase to £5.44m in the 28 weeks to October 15.

The increase was achieved despite a £2m drop in turnover to £93m and operating profit margins improved considerably from 7.4 per cent to 8.1 per cent with operating profits rising from £7.04m to £7.55m.

The major boost to the company came from the machine tool and engineering divisions and from the overseas companies, according to the chairman. Last year the engineering products side of the group showed a strong advance in profits, which rose by nearly £1m to £2.63m, with the crane companies, now merged into Jones Cranes, making a substantial improvement.

The machine tool division has continued to see steady growth—last year profits rose from £1.5m to £4.5m.

However, in this first half the iron and steel division has continued to be affected by the recession in the world steel industry and saw a further downturn in the first 28 weeks of the year. Last year the group made a 26 per cent increase in profits to £2.3m.

Following last year's rights issue which raised £5m, interest charges in the first half have declined from £1.05m to £792,000.

**Sir J Hodge buys Avana shares**

By Victor Felstead

In the share deals announced recently, Sir Julian Hodge, chairman of the Avana Group, has bought 100,000 Avana ordinary shares. This is about half of 1 per cent of the ordinary capital.

British Industrial Holdings has bought 15,000 ordinary shares in Barget, bringing its total to 242,000 shares, or 17.1 per cent. McLeod Russell has bought 20,000 shares in Churchbury Estates and now holds 365,000 shares, or 22.81 per cent.

Hanson Trust has bought stakes in four companies. It now holds more than 5 per cent of the ordinary capitals of Cosalt (£5.08 per cent), Lindusries (5.62 per cent), Selincourt (6 per cent) and Sidlaw Industries (5.63 per cent). Lucas has been adding to its holding in Automotive Products by buying another £25,000 shares. This brings Lust's stake to 4.38m shares, or 11.43 per cent.

**Barclays Merchant Bank at 89.7m**

Barclays Merchant Bank announces a one-third increase in pre-tax profits to £9.7m in the year to September 30. The merchant banking arm of Barclays, whose chairman Mr Charles Ball recently resigned over differences of policy to be replaced by Mr Derry Weyer, has faced slack lending conditions to industry.

Barclays Bank International also announces the sale of 5.9 million shares in Australia and New Zealand Banking.

**Ladbrooke buys 14 pc of Leisure & Gen**

Ladbrooke Group has brought 1.5m shares or about 14.57 per cent of the capital of Leisure & General Holdings at 60p a share. Of these shares, 1.49m were formerly included in the Lichfield-based group's portfolio. The price paid is the consideration being offered by Ladbrooke to all Leisure shareholders. It has already received a cool reception from Leisure's board.

**Jump of 70 pc but United Wire gives a warning**

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and

The British Bank of the Middle East

announce that their base rate for lending is being increased, with effect from 1st December, 1977

From 6% per annum to 7% per annum

**22 pc jump but Mitchell Cotts sees downswing**

By Tony May

No great improvement in profits was expected by Mitchell Cotts for the year to June 30 to the 22 per cent advance to a record £11.6m before tax earnings due a 15 per cent in its shares to 45p.

Mr. J. K. Dick, the chairman of this commodities, transport and engineering group, believes that there "may well be a reduction in the level of pre-tax profit" for the current year. But he sees no reason why the group's attributable profits after all charges and extraordinary items, should not show an increase.

The performance of the past three days as favouring the "bulls" is rather dim.

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Equity prices drifted back from a firm start through a lack of sustained interest brought about, in part, by the miners' meeting with the Coal Board on pay.

The only main bar to further progress was a set of third-quarter figures from BP which were a disappointment even by the standards of the market's scaled down estimates.

Nevertheless dealers regard the performance of the past three days as favouring the "bulls".

Willows Francis, whose potential as a takeover candidate has been mentioned here, was marked up 31p to 105p after surprise terms from Guinness Peat, while Racial picked up 5p to 19p on the bid from Bevan, Graham Wood, another steel group, went ahead 4p to 57p after an announcement had dispelled doubt that takeover talks might be failing.

Equity turnover on November 30 was £84.28m (13,533 bar-

## Stock markets

**Miners and BP put an end to rally**

10p to 283p from Bank of Scotland.

Figures well above market

expectations had Bass Charrington 9p to the good at 161p and helped Guinness to gain 3p to 188p in tandem. As low as 19p on one stage Racial picked up after figures and a bullish forecast to end 9p up at 208p.

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Equity turnover on November 30 was £84.28m (13,533 bar-

gals). BP partly paid Shell, Racial, BP, ICI, Commercial Union, GEC, EMI, BAT DfA.

Shareholders in Graham Wood Steel Group should not sell yet. At 57p the shares had

gone flat since November 15 up to 55p at the beginning of November on news of talks about a possible bid. Yesterday the directors simply reported that talks continue.

One impression is that British Steel is the party interested in, at least a large part of Wood, and that the talks are now about a price of 65p a share.

Grand Metropolitan, Great Universal Stores, Beecham, John Brown, Reed, Oil Exploration, Walker & Staff and Graham Wood.

## Latest results

Company	Sales £m	Earnings pence	Div. pence	Paid date	Year's total	
Kingsgate Fins	£0.4	10.7	3.2(2.8)	—	4.4(4.3)	
Bass Charrington (F)	904.5(801.7)	16.4(10.7)	(—)	6/1	(1.6)	
British Pet (Q)	2,960.0(2,630.0)	43.6(56.5)	(—)	—	(1.0)	
Bevan, Graham W.	3.4(3.0)	0.43(0.39)	(—)	13/1	(0.5)	
Crofton Spring (I)	3.6(3.1)	0.21(0.212)	(—)	—	(0.5)	
Dillons (I)	2.6(0.559)	0.04(0.02)	0.04(0.37)	—	4.55(4.55)	
Edwards Gold (F)	—	(—)	—	—	—	
M. J. Gleeson (F)	54.0(52.0)	1.43(1.42)	6.56(6.54)	1.15(1.02)	1.8(1.6)	
Kingshill Thr (F)	2.9(1.7)	1.0(0.82)	0.8(0.50)	75(25)	125(50)	
Mitchell Cotts (F)	—	11.6(9.5)	8.0(7.22)	2.7(2.6)	3.4(3.3)	
National Com. Int. (F)	—	0.00(0.002)	0.001(0.001)	NU(NU)	NU(NU)	
Phoenix Prince (F)	89.9(51.9)	19.3(11.5)	1.7(1.62)	—	1.77(1.77)	
Racial E. B. (F)	—	0.18(0.15)	7.6(6.3)	1.25(1.0)	17/3	(3.6)
Routledge & K. (I)	1.5(1.2)	(—)	(—)	—	—	
Saint Gobain (I)	93.0(95.0)	5.4(4.8)	1.85(1.65)	20/1	(3.65)	
Sumrie Clothes (I)	1.9(1.6)	0.05(0.02)	—	—	—	
Trans-Oceanic (F)	—	0.90(0.73)	5.32(4.35)	3.5(2.7)	5.0(4.2)	
Union Int. (I)	19.0(16.1)	1.9(1.8)	2.93(2.6)	10/2	(8.0)	
USA Wire Gp	12.3(10.2)	1.8(1.1)	11.9(16.4)	7.0(7.0)	14(15)	
Whitbread Arms (F)	—	1.3(1.2)	—	14/12	—	

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividends by 1.515. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. A loss is shown.

**D F Bevan in bid for Leon Berner Gp**

Shareholders of the steel stockholding and manufacturing Leon Berner Group are to be offered 17p for each of their shares by the D. F. Bevan (Holdings) metal merchant group. Both groups have the same chairman, Mr. J. M. Wardle. The bid follows Bevan's purchase of a near 48 per cent stake held by the late Mr. Leon Berner at the same price, as well as 95 per cent of the preference shares at 10p.

News of the offer, which values Berner at about £1.5m, sent the shares up 5p to 19p.

Last month the Berner group celebrated the return to its old form by paying a first and final dividend of 11.3p gross. This was a return to the dividend list after a two-year gap. The last dividend was 1.1p gross in 1974. Profits showed a continued recovery and jumped from £19.000 to £151.000 for the year to May 31. Earnings a share went up from 1.2p to 5.3p.

Moreover, if adjusted for inflation, the volume of turnover shows a decline of 14.5 per cent and the pre-tax profits include £1.01m of bank interest, reflecting Gleeson's strong liquidity and the high interest rates, as well as growing pressure on margins.

Bank interest of £387,000 was included in last year's figure, which has also been restated to take in £22,000 from a change in the basis of accounting for work-in-progress.

Reflecting the market's disappointment with the figures, the shares fell by 3p to 49p.

Earnings per share are up from 6.3p to 6.65p, and the total gross dividend rises from 2.35p to 2.78p.

Although Gleeson's present order book is "satisfactory" and the turnover for the current year may be maintained at the 1976-77 level, the board warns that the acute work shortage in the construction industry at home will make it increasingly difficult to find the order book filled. Pressure on trading margins will continue until the industry's present overcapacity price structure is relieved by the anticipated release of public expenditure programmes held back by last year's Government spending curbs, the directors say.

Meanwhile, the group is making progress overseas, with the first successfully completed cold-store contract in Egypt being followed by a second.

Although the year's pre-tax profits are a record, they show just how much margins have suffered. Moreover, the second-half profits are a fall of almost 22 per cent on the similar half of the previous year.

Even if the current year's turnover is maintained, profits could well be lower. The one bright spot seems to be overseas. If the group could gain more work there, especially in the Middle East, this might make all the difference.

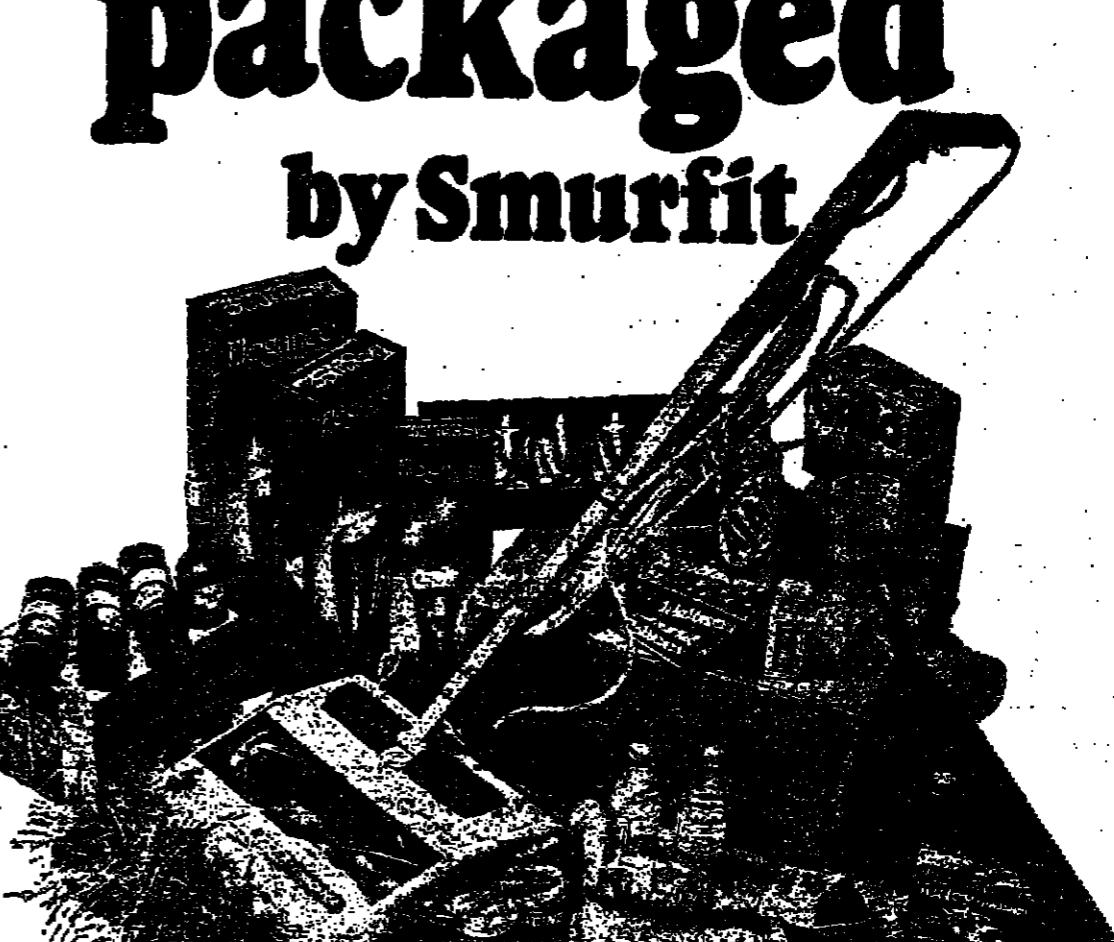
**Guinness Peat to buy Willows**

Grindlays Bank Group announce the following changes in their base rates for lending with effect from 2 December, 1977.

**GRINDLAYS BANK LIMITED** from 6% to 7½%  
**GRINDLAYS BRANDS LIMITED** from 7½% to 8½%  
**GRINDLAYS BANK (SCOTLAND) LTD.** from 7½% to 8½%  
**CAPITAL FOR AGRICULTURE LIMITED** from 7% to 8½%

The interest rates paid on call deposits will be 3% on call deposits of £300,000 and 4% on call deposits of £1,000 and over.

Rates of interest on fixed deposits of over £10,000 will be quoted on request.

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**THE HONGKONG BANK GROUP BASE RATES**

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and

The British Bank of the Middle East

announce that their base rate for lending is being increased, with effect from 1st December, 1977

From 6% per annum to 7% per annum

Joy, 1st 150</p



## Stock Exchange Prices **Leaders drift**

**ACCOUNT DAYS:** Dealings Began, Nov 28. Dealings End, Dec 9. § Contango Day, Dec 12. Settlement Day, Dec 20

**§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days**

# **BELL'S**

## **SCOTCH WHISKY**

"Afore ye go

## Bank of Ireland

announces that the following rates will apply from and including

**2nd December 1977**

Base Lending Rate 7½% p.a.

Base Interest Rate for deposits ... ... 4% p.a.



**Bank of Ireland**

## Standard Chartered

announce that on and after  
**2nd December, 1977**

the following annual rates will apply:

**Base rate ..... 7½%**

(Increased from 6%.)

**Deposit rate ..... 4%**

(Increased from 3%)

**Standard Chartered  
Bank Limited**



## Co-operative Bank

With effect from  
**2nd December, 1977**  
the following rates will apply

### Base Rate Change

From 6% to 7% p.a.

Also:  
7 Day Deposit Accounts 4% p.a.  
1 Month Deposit Accounts 4½% p.a.

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## FINANCIAL NEWS

### Dresdner Bank ahead but margins pressed

From Peter Norman

Born, Dec 1  
Dresdner Bank operating profits rose by about 10 per cent in the first 10 months of this year, Herr Helmut Haesgen, the bank's executive board spokesman, said.

At a press conference in Düsseldorf, he indicated that the cash dividend for 1977 will be reduced from the 20 per cent paid for last year to take account of the changes in West German corporation tax.

But the cut is likely to be small to avoid putting the bank's shareholders resident outside West Germany at too great a disadvantage.

Dresdner Bank's interim figures for the first 10 months of this year show a slower growth in regular earnings than Deutsche Bank's figures.

Because of a squeeze on margins, the surplus of interest payable over interest paid increased by only 6 per cent to DM1,160m despite a 14 per cent rise in the average volume of business.

The surplus from charging commission on service transactions increased fractionally from DM347m from DM344.6m.

#### Woolworth record

F. W. Woolworth Company of America reports that sales for the four weeks ended November 22 totalled \$453.3m, an increase of 6.3 per cent over sales of \$426.6m last year. For the 43 weeks ended November 22, sales increased 6.7 per cent to \$4,200m from \$3,900m. These are records for both periods.

#### Thyssen payment

Thyssen Industrie AG, the West German steel and engineering group which includes the former Rheinstahl AG, should receive a provisional DM62.3m (about £15.8m) compensation from DM48.3m to its parent, Thyssen AG for its 1976-77 year, says the chairman, Herr Wolfgang Schaefers. Turnover was DM4,300m against DM4,400m of which the export share was 35.7 per cent against 31.8 per cent. Incoming orders were DM4,000m compared with DM3,800m. There is an order backlog of DM2,700m compared with DM2,900m.

Thyssen AG holds around 90 per cent of Thyssen Industrie's DM470m capital. The 10 per cent minority shareholders will receive a guaranteed 60 per cent of Thyssen AG's expected

DM5.50 1976-77 dividend as agreed under the Thyssen share offer for Rheinstahl, a spokesman said.

#### Westralian Sands

Westralian Sands of Australia has issued 28.6m 10 cent per share to Tioxide Australia at 20 cents a share after shareholder approval. The issue gives Tioxide a 40 per cent holding in Westralian Sands. Tioxide's holding company in Britain is Tioxide Group, 44 per cent of which is owned by Imperial Chemical Industries, 44 per cent by Lead Industries Group and 12 per cent by Federated Chemical Holdings.

Westralian Sands also receives from Tioxide its interests in two Western Australian mineral sands companies and long-term limeite contracts.

#### Total Kenya

Total Kenya, a subsidiary of Compagnie Francaise des Petroles, has started drilling operations off the coast of Kenya. The company acts as operator for an association of the two French oil groups CFP (Total) (70 per cent) and Societe Nationale Elf Aquitaine (30 per cent). The offshore well has been named "Simba-1" and is located off Mombasa, in 920 metre-deep water.

#### Carter Hawley boost

Carter Hawley Hale Stores of Los Angeles, which sold its stake in the House of Fraser to Lourho, says that sales for the four weeks ended November 26 were \$151.8m (about \$84.3m), an increase of 12.2 per cent from \$135.3m in November 1976. Sales for the first 10 months of this year were up \$1,100m, an increase of 8.6 per cent over the \$1,000m for the same period of 1976.

#### Credit Suisse sale

Credit Suisse has sold its controlling interest in the Swiss store group, Jelmoli, for 300m francs (about £73m), which the bank said would help swell its reserves that had been depleted by the activities of its branch at Chiasso. The bank said that it sold its interest in Jelmoli, amounting to about 50 per cent, to the Basel-based holding company UIC AG for 1,600 francs per share. Jelmoli has 350,000 shares outstanding at the close of the Zurich Stock Exchange yesterday.

### Fruehauf of US has over 44 pc of Crane's capital

#### Briefly

new motor syndicate. Syndicate is called Tudor Motor Policies and will write fleet business with an expected initial premium capacity of over £1m.

#### HALLAM PREFERENCE

Board announces that preference dividend for half year to December 31 will not be paid.

#### ALLIED PLANT

Resolutions passed for sale of two propylene and Rennomac (Exxon) units, as were resolutions to buy Malton West Plant, one-third interest in F. & F. S. White and 75 Beverley Road, Hull which incorporated issue of 1m shares in part payment. Resolutions for sale of 4m units also passed.

#### On Wednesday, Mr G. F. Mulley, the Fruehauf president, met shop stewards representing all Crane's manufacturing locations to talk over the implications of the bid situation.

After the meeting the shop stewards, in a statement, said they were "impressed by what

Mr Mulley had to say regarding future job-security of Crane Fruehauf employees and the future prospects of the company should Fruehauf be successful in their takeover bid".

#### BANK OF MONTREAL

Revenue after tax for year to October 31, 1976, \$98.5m. Earnings a share after tax, \$3.18 (\$2.71). Major factors were strong asset growth and continued improvement in control of operating expenses.

#### ERGO LISTING

East Rand Gold & Uranium (Ergo) has applied for a listing on the Stock Exchange, London, and expects dealings to begin on Monday.

#### LONGBOURNE-BRIT INN TEA

Acceptances received in rights issue amount to some 89.5 per cent of 1.7m shares offered.

#### EDINBURGH & DUNDEE

Bank undamaged by British Rail Pensions Fund's claims of over 50 per cent acceptances. Shareholders advised to no nothing, as they will not be locked in as a minority unless offer goes unconditional.

#### BANK OF MONTREAL

Revenue after tax for year to October 31, 1976, \$98.5m. Earnings a share after tax, \$3.18 (\$2.71). Major factors were strong asset growth and continued improvement in control of operating expenses.

#### BLAND UNDERWRITING

Bland Welch, part of Bland Payne insurance broking group, and Edgar Hamilton Carter, Lloyd's brokers, have set up new company, RGH Underwriting Management, to act as agents for

#### Business appointments

#### Board addition to Ready Mixed Concrete

Mr A. H. A. Dibbs has been elected a director of Ready Mixed Concrete.

Mr R. C. Thompson and Mr P. M. White have joined the board of Carrington Viscose Group.

The Earl of Dartmouth and Mr N. Vinton have become additional directors of Scottish and Mercantile Investment.

Mr W. R. Henry, Mr W. Proudfoot and Mr G. K. H. Reid have been made directors of Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society.

Mr David Griffiths has been made managing director of Prestcold Holdings. Mr James Hamilton becomes managing director of Prestcold Scottish operations.

Mr Alexander Orlow has been made a director of Alfred Dunhill.

Mr K. Kikuchi has been appointed as Miss M. S. as general manager, New York. Ms T. Kawamura becomes general manager, London.

Mr Mike Roberts has gone on to the board of Bics.

Mr John Davey, formerly deputy chairman of Humphries Holdings, has been made chairman in succession to Mr. H. Dundas, who has resigned from the board.

Mr F. Brown, Mr P. G. Edwards and Mr B. A. Johnson have become directors of Covrad.

Mr John Stanbury is now chairman of B. Pickup.

Mr C. Chinn becomes a director of Sphere Drake (Underwriting).

Mr C. D. Mackay has been made managing director of Paktrans.

## FINANCIAL NEWS

### Dresdner Bank ahead

#### but margins pressed

agreed under the Thyssen share offer for Rheinstahl, a spokesman said.

#### Westralian Sands

Westralian Sands of Australia has issued 28.6m 10 cent per share to Tioxide Australia at 20 cents a share after shareholder approval. The issue gives Tioxide a 40 per cent holding in Westralian Sands. Tioxide's holding company in Britain is Tioxide Group, 44 per cent of which is owned by Imperial Chemical Industries, 44 per cent by Lead Industries Group and 12 per cent by Federated Chemical Holdings.

Westralian Sands also receives from Tioxide its interests in two Western Australian mineral sands companies and long-term limeite contracts.

Because of a squeeze on margins, the surplus of interest payable over interest paid increased by only 6 per cent to DM1,160m despite a 14 per cent rise in the average volume of business.

The surplus from charging commission on service transactions increased fractionally from DM347m from DM344.6m.

#### Woolworth record

F. W. Woolworth Company of America reports that sales for the four weeks ended November 22 totalled \$453.3m, an increase of 6.3 per cent over sales of \$426.6m last year. For the 43 weeks ended November 22, sales increased 6.7 per cent to \$4,200m from \$3,900m. These are records for both periods.

#### Thyssen payment

Thyssen Industrie AG, the West German steel and engineering group which includes the former Rheinstahl AG, should receive a provisional DM62.3m (about £15.8m) compensation from DM48.3m to its parent, Thyssen AG for its 1976-77 year, says the chairman, Herr Wolfgang Schaefers. Turnover was DM4,300m against DM4,400m of which the export share was 35.7 per cent against 31.8 per cent. Incoming orders were DM4,000m compared with DM3,800m. There is an order backlog of DM2,700m compared with DM2,900m.

Thyssen AG holds around 90 per cent of Thyssen Industrie's DM470m capital. The 10 per cent minority shareholders will receive a guaranteed 60 per cent of Thyssen AG's expected

## £6,000 plus Appointments

Schlumberger

### CORPORATE ATTORNEY

Needed for position in a Paris based international petroleum company. Should have minimum of two years legal experience. Must be fully fluent in English and Arabic and able to handle legal matters in both languages. French desirable extra.

Extensive travel. Relocation likely to Middle East Unit Headquarters.

Please submit C.V. in English together with recent photograph to:

General Attorney,  
Services Techniques Schlumberger,  
42 rue Saint Dominique,  
75340 Paris Cedex 07, France.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors requires a

### SECRETARY for PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

This is a senior post, at director level, with direct responsibility to the Secretary-General for the management of the Professional Practice Department which is responsible for administering the RICS Code of Conduct and its Disciplinary Procedures, and for handling a wide variety of business connected with the practice of the surveying profession.

The post requires a person of high calibre, preferably (but not necessarily) with experience at senior level in a professional society or similar body. A degree (preferably in Law) would be a distinct advantage.

Candidates should be between 33 and 50 years of age and should have the ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing.

Salary c. £10,000

Applications with curriculum vitae to the Personnel Officer, RICS, 29 Lincoln's Inn Fields WC2A 3DG. Tel. 01-242 6451.

### ACCOUNTANT

Aged between 30 and 40

required to help run group of private companies with view to becoming Company Secretary in due course.

The applicant need not be qualified but should have good knowledge of general accountancy, company law, taxation and should also be conversant with all aspects of office management. Assistance with housing can be given if required. Opportunity to join Pension Scheme after initial period.

Salary commensurate with experience. Apply in writing to Box 0073 K, The Times.

### DIRECTOR OF APPLIED ECONOMETRICS SERVICE

The Cambridge Growth Project is expecting to set up a company based on the development of a dynamic model of the UK economy. The project will be funded by the Economic and Social Research Council. Candidates should combine entrepreneurial skills with experience in economic forecasting and the preparation of reports. Good communication skills and the ability to work with others. Salary: around £23,000 plus performance-related pay. Applications to: 16 January 1978.

For further details please contact:

Dr. T. S. Barker,  
Department of Applied Economics,  
Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge CB3 9DE.  
Tel. 0223-58944

## Stepping Stones—Non-Secretarial—Secretarial—Temporary &amp; Part Time Vacancies

LA CREME DE LA CREME

LARGE MULTI-NATIONAL GROUP  
HEADQUARTERED IN ROTTERDAM, HOLLAND

SEEKS

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
TO VICE PRESIDENT AND TREASURER

The job would suit someone of 25-30, with initiative, enterprise and a stable and mature outlook.

Our working language is English—the job will be based in Rotterdam—initial interviews will be held in London.

Starting salary will be £7,000 per annum, plus holiday allowance, bonus and other benefits. We offer pleasant working conditions and help in moving and finding accommodation.

For this exceptional opportunity we are looking for an exceptional Secretary. The applicant will have:

- \* Excellent secretarial skills with emphasis on legal English.
- \* At least 3 years' executive secretarial experience at Director or Senior Legal Partner level.
- \* Experience and willingness to work from dictation machine and shorthand.

A knowledge of foreign languages, especially German, would be an advantage.

Please write in the first instance with recent photograph and full c.v. to our U.K. subsidiary:

Attention Mr. L. White, Financial Director

SOAG MACHINERY LIMITED

This vacancy is known within our Organisation. All applications will be held in strict confidence.



Paper Tiger, an imprint of Dragon's World Ltd., produces high quality illustrated books. We now have an office in the Holland Park area, and our editors require an experienced personal assistant/secretary who is versatile, able to use a phone intelligently, and above all gifted with a flair for office organisation.

The successful applicant must be able to work effectively on personal initiative. Salary will be negotiable.

Please contact Martyn Dean, after 10.30 a.m., on 7271069 for further details.

**SECRETARY/P.A.**  
required for  
**PARTNER**

In (W.C.) firm of solicitors. Very varied work. Plenty of responsibility. Salary £4,000 p.a.  
Please apply in writing to:  
**BOX 0047, THE TIMES**  
with full cv.

**Secretary P.A.**  
**INTERNATIONAL CO.**

Experienced confidential Secretary required by well established International Co. with super offices in W.L. Must be flexible, have good telephone and shorthand, knowledge of export documentation and be able to handle telecs. A wide variety of work, including liaison with the person who can cap the salary is really excellent. If you've got what it takes ring 01-486 8551

**TOP EXECUTIVE  
SECRETARY  
£4,000 +**

A very highly presentable Secretary with wide experience in the Arts, TV and Film, Music, Media and other West End interests. Good telephone and shorthand, knowledge of export documentation and be able to handle telecs. A wide variety of work, including liaison with the person who can cap the salary is really excellent. If you've got what it takes

**THE NATIONAL  
FILM SCHOOL**  
requires an  
**ASSISTANT**  
to the  
**PRODUCTION  
ADMINISTRATOR**

Applications should have a knowledge of film production and an appreciation of film making on a scale demanding on experience.

For further information please telephone  
**RACHEL NEALE ON  
SECRETARIAL STAFFING**  
71235, EXT. 11

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All advertisements are subject to the conditions of acceptance of Times Newspapers Limited, copies of which are available on request.

**SECRETARY/P.A.**

Competent office, Mayfair. Previous company working with Charities, Consulting, Financial, and varied work. Financial and Industrial companies, therefore expertise in commercial documents essential. Please write to:

**The Chairman,  
BESPOKE SECURITIES LTD  
61 GROSVENOR ST.  
LONDON W1X 9DA**

**PRIVATE SECRETARY**  
required for Harley Street Urological and Transplant Surgeon. Salary around £3,500. Tel.: 01-935 6155.

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**Tempting Times****HIGH SUCCESS RATE**

We specialize in the Arts, TV and Film, Music, Media and other West End interests. Good telephone and shorthand, knowledge of export documentation and be able to handle telecs. A wide variety of work, including liaison with the person who can cap the salary is really excellent. If you've got what it takes

**JOYCE GUINNESS BUREAU**

1. The Chairman, Joyce Guiness Bureau, 10 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1, 01-580 0010. THE Recruitment Consultants

**INTELLIGENT YOUNG PERSON**

2. 12.30 p.m. Enjoy temporary work with Clegg Clegg (Consultants), 10 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1, 01-580 0010. The Recruitment Consultants

**BRIDGE THE GAP WITH Clegg & Clegg**

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**DOMESTIC AND CATERING SITUATIONS****ATV**

1. 12.00 p.m. Thanes, 1.20 pm. Southern, 2.00 pm. ATVs, 2.20 pm. Grampian, 2.25 pm. Wogan, 2.30 pm. The Abduction of Saint Anne, with Robert Wagner, 3.50 pm. Thanes, 5.10, Weekend, 5.20 pm. Crossroads, 5.45 pm. News, 6.00 pm. Friday, 7.45 pm. Saturday, 8.00 pm. Sunday, 8.30 pm. London, 8.30, Sat. 9.00 pm. London, 10.30, 12.30 am. Film, Project X, with Christopher George.

**Scots**

1. 12.00 p.m. Thanes, 1.20 pm. Southern, 2.00 pm. ATVs, 2.20 pm. Grampian, 2.25 pm. Wogan, 2.30 pm. The Abduction of Saint Anne, with Robert Wagner, 3.50 pm. Thanes, 5.10, Weekend, 5.20 pm. Crossroads, 5.45 pm. News, 6.00 pm. Friday, 7.45 pm. Saturday, 8.00 pm. Sunday, 8.30 pm. London, 8.30, Sat. 9.00 pm. London, 10.30, 12.30 am. Film, Project X, with Christopher George.

**Westward**

1. 12.00 p.m. Thanes, 1.20 pm. Southern, 2.00 pm. ATVs, 2.20 pm. Grampian, 2.25 pm. Wogan, 2.30 pm. The Abduction of Saint Anne, with Robert Wagner, 3.50 pm. Thanes, 5.10, Weekend, 5.20 pm. Crossroads, 5.45 pm. News, 6.00 pm. Friday, 7.45 pm. Saturday, 8.00 pm. Sunday, 8.30 pm. London, 8.30, Sat. 9.00 pm. London, 10.30, 12.30 am. Film, Project X, with Christopher George.

**Radio**

1. 6.00 am. News, Colin Berry, 7.02 pm. Noel Edmonds, 9.00 pm. Simon Bates, 11.31 pm. Paul Burman, 2.02 pm. Liberal Party Broadcast, 4.30 pm. David Jackson, 4.31 pm. D.I.T., 7.02 pm. Support Your Local, 7.38 pm. Northern Radio Orchestra, 8.02 pm. Jack Dorsey, 9.02 pm. Music Night, 10.02 pm. John Peel, 12.00-12.05 pm. News, 1 st Stereo.

**Sold**

2. 6.00 am. Radio 1, 7.02 pm. Terry Wogan, 8.27 pm. Racing bulletin, 9.02 pm. Ray Moore, 10.30 pm. Waggoners' Walk, 11.30 pm. Jimmy Shand, 1.50 pm. Sports Desk, 2.02 pm. Radio 1, 2.07 pm. David Jackson, 4.31 pm. D.I.T., 7.02 pm. Support Your Local, 7.38 pm. Northern Radio Orchestra, 8.02 pm. Jack Dorsey, 9.02 pm. Music Night, 10.02 pm. John Peel, 12.00-12.05 pm. News, 1 st Stereo.

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**Sold**

4. 6.00 am. News, 6.17 pm. Farming, 6.30 pm. Up to the Hour, 7.00 pm. News, 8.00 pm. Today, 8.30 pm. Up to the Hour, 9.00 pm. News, 10.00 pm. The People's Voice, 10.45 pm. Voice of the People, 10.45 pm. Checkpoint, 10.50 pm. Service, 10.55 pm. Story, 11.00 pm. News, 11.05 pm. That Most Despicable Race, 11.15 pm. Letters to the Editor, 11.30 pm. Everywoman, 12.00 pm. News, 12.02 pm. You and Yours, 12.27 pm. My Word!, 12.30 pm. Weather.

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**Sold**

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**Sold**

16. 6.00 am. News, 6.17 pm. Farming, 6.30 pm. Up to the Hour, 7.00 pm. News, 8.00 pm. Today, 8.30 pm. Up to the Hour, 9.



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